

MOUNTAIN GAZETTE

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Tremble and Hanowski win 2nd annual Catamount Challenge Backcountry Race



Eric Tremble, Jericho and JoAnn Hanowski, of Underhill take first place 2nd annual Catamount Challenge Backcountry Race. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Sunday's clear blue skies, temperatures in the mid 20's, and variable snow conditions set the stage for an ideal day of recreation and racing at the 2nd annual Catamount Backcountry Challenge Race and Tour. The race and tour followed the infamous Catamount Trail route from Bolton Valley to the Trapp Family Touring Center but this time it was done in reverse giving the participants the ultimate challenge of climbing from the Nebraska Valley Road to the highest point on the Catamount Trail 2300 feet above.

Lined up on the start line at the Trapp Family Touring Center, thirteen enthusiastic skiers embarked on their strenuous but gratifying tour. Prior to the start, Trapp Family Lodge President, Johannes von Trapp was on hand to give encouraging words of advice to all the participants as he pointed in the direction of route over 3680 foot, Bolton Mountain. One hour later, with all the non-

competitive skiers well on their way, Catamount Trail's Jim Fredericks issued final instructions of safety and caution to the 24 racers lined up on the start. The next 16 kilometers would be an all out test of each athlete's strength, endurance, and skiing agility.

Outfitted with a diverse conglomeration of equipment, each racer secretly strategized as to what combination of boot, ski, wax, or climbing skins would provide the best advantage in their quest to outwit the competition. UVM's Eric Carter led the charge out of the start followed closely by Olympian Marc Gilbertson of Hyde Park, last year's champion Eric Tremble of Jericho, and Eric Phaneuf of Stowe. Eric Carter opened up the lead on Gilbertson over the groomed section of the Trapp trail system and through the winding descent down to Nebraska Valley Road.

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Jericho Town Meeting

By Phyl Newbeck
Special to the Mountain Gazette

Residents of Jericho may have felt something was missing on Town Meeting Day. There was absolutely no discussion of the relative merits of sand and salt, a debate which has taken place almost every year for as long as folks can remember. True, one resident suggested that magnesium chloride (a salt substitute) was corrosive to aluminum, but that was the extent of the debate, ending a long-time Jericho tradition of extended discussion on the matter.

This is not to suggest that the highway and bridges section of the town budget did not receive its share of debate. There was discussion about the possibility of sharing equipment with other towns, some debate about the placement of sidewalks, and the surprising statement by Selectboard Vice Chair Tim Nulty that the town is actually able to build sidewalks more cheaply without federal assistance, even when the federal government contributes 80% of the costs.

Three floor amendments were offered to the budget and debated by the roughly 250 people in attendance. The first was to level fund the Visiting Nurses Association with a note that the reason for denying them the increase they sought (\$560) was the high salary of their Executive Director. Opponents countered that salaries are contractually set and any decrease would go toward services. The

Jericho continued on page 16

Underhill honors Luella Lamphere, Re-elects Steinbauer to Selectboard

By Ted Tedford
Special to the Mountain Gazette

Voters at town meeting March 3 honored former veteran town clerk and Selectboard member Luella Lamphere, elected Dan Steinbauer to another term on the Selectboard and approved all warned items except the town budget.

Lamphere, 93, served as town clerk for 21 years and was the first woman, along with the late Marion Fay, to be elected to a Selectboard in Vermont. She served two years in that post.

Incumbent Steinbauer defeated Marc Maheux for a seat on the Selectboard, 345-242.

Elected unopposed were Anthony Julianelle and John Larue to the Underhill Town School Board. All other town officials running unopposed were elected.

Voters also approved a \$1,944,356 budget for the Underhill Central School. They also OK'd spending \$11,965 to begin a foreign language program at the Central School.

Jennifer Silpe was re-elected town constable in a write-in vote. She had inadvertently failed to file

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Emma Phalen named March of Dimes ambassador for 2009



Emma Phalen presented Governor Douglas with a Newborn Screening Award. Emma smiles proudly with Governor and Mrs. Douglas. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Emma Phalen, age 11, a sixth grader at Browns River Middle School in Jericho, has been chosen to be this year's Ambassador for the Vermont chapter of the March of Dimes. She is the first ambassador chosen that was not a premature infant. Emma was chosen because she provides inspiration to the families, workers, and volunteers at the March of Dimes. She has been fund raising for the MOD for 3 years now. She started at age 8 when she decided to have her ninth birthday party at the March for Babies in Burlington. She and her friends and some parents all participated in the March that year, last year and again this year. This year she will again have her birthday party at the March for Babies, but hopes to have a record amount of participants on her team. Emma is focused this year on providing community awareness here in the Jericho/Underhill area by encouraging all age groups to march, raise funds, and learn about what it is that the March of Dimes does. So far Emma has raised over \$1000.00 for the March of Dimes, and she has only just begun her campaign.

Hoping to make Matt Mazzola mobile again

By Katherine Quimby Johnson
Special to the Mountain Gazette

Independence Day is a date tinged with irony for Matthew Mazzola. On July 4, 2003, the active, athletic 26-year-old was standing in the ocean on the Jersey shore when he decided to dive in. He hit a sandbar and snapped his neck. He is now a quadriplegic, with some motion in one shoulder.

Matthew's father, Bob Mazzola, lives in Hyde Park. Before the 2008 holidays he sent a letter to the Cambridge Eagles Club. David May, a member of the Eagles Club and a Cambridge resident, described the situation: Matthew Mazzola's insurance covers the \$1,500 in medication he needs every month, but the 31-year-old is essentially bed-ridden. A customized wheelchair that would allow him to regain any mobility costs a minimum of \$29,000. For a wheelchair adapted to be controlled by the few muscles Matthew does control, the cost rises to \$40,000. Bob Mazzola wondered if the Eagles could help. David May agreed to coordinate the Eagles' effort.

Enter DEW Construction Corp, May's employer. He approached Doug Robie, head of DEW's environmental programs and an Underhill resident, and asked about doing a bottle drive. Robie, whose job includes looking for all possible ways to reduce the amount of construction waste that ends up in landfills, saw a bottle drive as a way to reduce one more type of construction waste—on construction sites, redeemable bottles have typically ended up in the trash. Robie and DEW's 13-member SHARP (Safety Health and Resource Protection) Committee coordinated the effort, which also involved Cassela Waste Management and the

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On Saturday, March 7, Emma was introduced as the Ambassador at the March for Babies kick-off. She also presented Governor Douglas with a Newborn Screening Award. Vermont has earned the best score in the nation on the March of Dimes' Prematurity Report Card. Vermont has the lowest rate of babies born premature of any state, in large part thanks to the work of the March of Dimes and the support they receive from Governor Douglas.

But let's hear about Emma in her own words. "Hello, my name is Emma Phalen. I am 11 years old (almost 12). I attend Browns River Middle School and live in Jericho, Vermont with my mom, dad, and two brothers. This will be my third year fund raising for the March of Dimes and my third March for Babies.

"Three years ago for my ninth birthday party, I wanted to do something meaningful and fun. A family friend asked us if we wanted to participate in the March for Babies. At the time my aunt was

Phalen continued on page 13

CRAG-VT closes in on purchase of Upper West

By Phyl Newbeck
Special to the Mountain Gazette

The folks at CRAG-VT never planned to become landowners, but they are about to take title to their second tract of land. Incorporated in 1999, the Climbing Resource Access Group of Vermont purchased a quarry in Bolton in 2004 when it appeared that a house would be built blocking access to prime climbing terrain. Despite the fact that the parcel was not well known, CRAG-VT was able to raise over \$60,000 in less than two

Crag-VT continued on page 10

Bolton Town Meeting

By Phyl Newbeck
Special to the Mountain Gazette

The weather was not ideal for Town Meeting in Bolton but almost 120 residents, about the norm according to Town Clerk/Treasurer Deb LaRiviere, ignored the windblown snow for the trek to Smilie School on Monday night. Voters approved the town budget of \$716,750 by a more than three-to-one margin.

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Westford Town Meeting

By Phyl Newbeck
Special to the Mountain Gazette

Things were a lot quieter in Westford on Town Meeting Day this year. For the first time, residents voted on the town and school budgets via Australian ballot. Both the \$1,318,377 town budget and the \$5,194,034 school budget passed, although the town budget got almost one hundred more votes than the school did. Robert Bancroft

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POLICE REPORT

On Thursday, March 5 at 2:40 AM, VSP Williston received a call about a vehicle which had gone off the road and struck a tree on Browns Trace Road near Kettle Creek. The caller reported that there was nobody with the vehicle. Through his investigation Trooper Kamerling learned that the operator had been picked up from the scene and was at his Underhill residence. Trooper Kamerling met with the operator, identified as Michael J. Abair, 35, at his residence where he was observed to be under the influence of alcohol. Abair was arrested without incident then transported to the Williston State Police barracks for processing. The vehicle he was operating, a 2008 Subaru Impreza, sustained significant front end damage as a result of crash. Abair was cited to appear in Chittenden District Court on March 26 at 8:15 AM. Case # 09A101145. Investigating officer VSP Trooper Michael Kamerling, Williston Barracks.

UNDERHILL JERICO FIRE DEPARTMENT

By Kitty Clark

EMERGENCY CALLS:
 February 27, 8:41 AM. Responded to a fire alarm at 40 Tyler Rd., Jericho
 March 2, 12:13 PM. Responded to an accident near 86 VT RT 15, Jericho
 March 3, 5:28 PM. Responded to an accident near Packard Rd. on VT RT 15, Jericho
 March 3, 7:52 PM. EMS call on Cilley Hill Rd., Jericho
 March 4, 11:00 AM. EMS call on Wild Berry Lane, Underhill
 March 6, 3:31 PM. EMS call on Poker Hill Rd., Underhill
 March 10, 2:40 PM. EMS call on Pleasant Valley Rd., Underhill
 March 10, 9:10 PM. EMS call on Snowflake Drive, Jericho
 March 11, 8:59 AM. EMS call on Meadow Lane, Underhill
 March 11, 2:49 PM. Responded to a fire alarm at Browns River Middle School, Jericho
 March 3, Tuesday night drill was a maintenance drill at both stations.
 March 10, Tuesday night drill was on vehicle extrication, the use of the tools and stabilization. Two new apprentice members were introduced to the membership; they are David Toscano, firefighter position and Aaron Newton, junior firefighter position.
SAFETY MESSAGE: Last week we changed our clocks. Did everyone think to test their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and change the batteries if needed? These detectors are one of the best ways that we can protect our lives and the lives of our loved ones.
 Remember to practice fire safety every day.



Fifteen Vermont volunteers including ten members of the Covenant Community Church of Jericho Road took part in a mission trip to Gulfport, Mississippi to repair Katrina-damaged homes.

Governor Jim Douglas celebrates 2-1-1 Day!

Governor Jim Douglas helped to celebrate the fourth anniversary of Vermont 2-1-1 by proclaiming February 11, 2009 "2-1-1 Day."
 Governor Jim Douglas stated that "Vermont 211 has become a cornerstone for Vermonters seeking information and services within our state. The ability to contact one organization and gather information on virtually any service helps people get the service they need, when they need it."
 Vermont 2-1-1 is an easy to remember telephone number that can connect people who need help with critical services and everyday needs, or connect people who want to volunteer with volunteer opportunities. The service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, is confidential, and can be accessed from any phone in Vermont, including cell phones. The program also provides translation services for those who prefer to speak in their native language.
 Launched by the United Ways of Vermont in February 2005, in partnership with the State of Vermont, Vermont 2-1-1 received 5,000 calls in its first year. By the end of 2008, the call volume had increased to five times as much with a total of 25,095 calls last year. Highly trained call staff continue to offer personal assistance to callers to help them navigate through the service delivery system. Information in the robust 2-1-1 Database is updated daily, with a thorough update each year.
 "During these challenging economic times, de-

mands for United Way supported services and funding will increase, and resources will likely decrease," said Dawn Archbold, President of the United Ways of Vermont. "Stressors on government and employers will increase as well. That is where 2-1-1 comes in, and why the program will be so critical to the health and well-being of thousands of Vermonters."
 Need help finding help? Dialing 2-1-1 is your first step. Dial 2-1-1 from anywhere in Vermont, or visit our website at www.vermont211.org. Professional Information and Referral Specialists are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to assist you.

Jericho Research Forest offers workshops

Jericho Research Forest is offering three one-credit Wilderness Tracking courses the week of June 8-12. The workshops are Intro to Wildlife Tracking, Wildlife Trail Analysis, and Wildlife Track Analysis.
 There is also a new three-credit course entitled "Wilderness Awareness and Skills" the week of July 5-12. It is a full immersion into wilderness skills and students will stay overnight in the UVM Outing Club Cabin up on Bolton Valley Access Road for the whole week. Instructors for this course are from the Children of the Earth Foundation. This should be an awesome experience!
 If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email michael.kessler@uvm.edu.

AREA WORSHIP SERVICES

CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 A loving, caring Christian community, living and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with our neighbors."
 VT Rt. 15 Jericho
 Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM
 Reverend J. Harrison L. Heidel, Rector
 Karen Floyd, Parish Administrator, 899-2326
www.calvarychurchvt.org

COVENANT COMMUNITY CHURCH
 "Come as You Are"
 VT Rt. 15 between Jericho and Essex Center
 Pastor Peter Norland, 879-4313
 Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 AM; Adult Sunday School 8:45 - 9:45AM
 Children's Worship/Sunday School: K-6, 10:00 AM
 Opportunities for Community Service, Family Events,
 Youth and Adult Groups; Handicapped Accessible
pastor@jerhocovenantchurch.org - www.jerhocovenantchurch.org

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)
 273 VT Rt. 15 - between Jericho and Underhill
 Rev. Dagmar Rosenberg, Pastor - 899-3932
 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM - Nursery provided
 Sunday School for all ages - 10:30 AM
gslcvt@verizon.net www.GoodShepherdJericho.org

JERICO CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 On the Green in Jericho Center
 Pastor Peter Anderson and Youth Pastor Glenn Carter
 Worship Services at 8:00 and 11:00 AM - Nursery care provided
 Sunday school for all 9:30 AM
 Youth 6:15 PM Sundays in Sunday school building
 Signing for the deaf upon request
 899-4911; officejcc@comcast.net; www.jccvt.org

JERICO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"
 VT Rt. 15, Jericho (next to Town Hall)
 Rev. Charlie Yang, Pastor, 899-4288, cyang@troyconference.org.
 Sunday Worship Service, 9:00 AM;
 Children's Sunday School, 9:00 AM
 Youth Group, Saturday 6:00 PM; Bible Study, Tuesdays, 7:00 PM
www.troyconference.org/jumc or JerichoUMC@troyconference.org

MOUNT MANSFIELD UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
 A Liberal Spiritual Community
 P.O. Box 150, Jericho, VT 05465
 phone 899-5219 - website www.mmuuf.org
 We gather at 9:30 AM at the Jericho Elementary School on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of September-June
beginning Sunday, September 14, 2008
 for worship, reflection, growth, and support.
 All are welcome.

UNITED CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY FULL GOSPEL CHURCH
 100 Raceway Rd., Jericho, VT 05465
 Pastor Mike Murray - 899-2949, Monday-Friday
 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
 Nursery and Sunday School available
 Youth Fellowship Sunday nights 5:00 PM
 Area Home Fellowships, Thursdays, 7:00 PM
secretary@ucavt.org
www.ucavt.org

UNITED CHURCH OF UNDERHILL
 "Welcoming, Worshipping, Working for God"
 At the Green on Route 15 - Rev. Kevin Goldenbogen - 899-1722
www.unitedchurchofunderhill.com
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 Micah's Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM third Saturday

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A Sense of Mission: In their own words

Fifteen Vermont volunteers including ten members of the Covenant Community Church of Jericho Road took part in a mission trip to Gulfport, Mississippi to repair Katrina-damaged homes. Our Vermonters worked with crews from Ohio and Kansas for five days repairing homes in the Gulfport area. First person accounts from the Vermont crew follow:

Our group of 15 Vermonters worked on a home at the end of a dead-end road in Gulfport, about 9 miles from the base camp. Roberta, our home owner, lost everything when a Katrina-spawned tornado took the roof off her three-bedroom home.

When we arrived, the roof had already been replaced and the interior was gutted down to studs. We fixed some termite damage, shoveled dirt away from the foundation, pulled out shrubs, moved a wall, built a small deck/landing, sheetrocked all the walls and ceilings, mudded and taped everything.

We've formed great work teams of 3 or 4 people each and it's wonderful to see the camaraderie and relationships that are being built. We learned a lot and by the end of the week our skills had greatly improved. There were three professional carpenters among us, and the rest were greenhorns.

Our typical day went like this: Up at 6:30, make our own brown-bag lunch in the lunch room at our dorm (lots to choose from), breakfast next door at the church (each crew took turns preparing), someone would say a devotion, to the work site by 8:00 or so, work until noon, lunch break, work until 4:00, clean up for dinner, dinner at 6:00 (again, each crew took turns preparing), someone would say a devotion, free time. Lights out at 10:00 PM to get plenty of rest for the next day

We took a half day on Thursday and went to the backwoods near the Alabama border for a house dedication. The woman who owned it lost her entire home and the Methodists built her a new one. We visited three other homes the Methodists built. One family lived in a 12x12' tent for two years. Basically, all the relief organizations have pulled out, except for the Methodist Church. The Methodists are the seventh largest developers in Mississippi on Katrina related homes.

All of the people down here have been so warm and welcoming, and Roberta, the woman whose house we're rebuilding, has been so grateful.

We succeeded to do more, learn more, and leave behind more than I thought possible. It is a great feeling. We're all a little sore and tired from the work, but we accomplished an incredible amount in five days.

We rolled in at about 11:30 on Saturday night, really beat, but safe and sound. Yeah, my bed felt great. The cats were all over me, so evidently they missed me. I do, unfortunately, have a nasty cold now, but otherwise all is okay. I came home after some nice work and feel good about that.

Our mission friends are practicing a long held tradition in the Evangelical Covenant Church. Founded in 1885 by Swedish immigrants, early Covenanters established a reputation as Mission Friends during the dark period of the Great Depression, bringing hope and relief to the poor and hungry, extending God's love and compassion to a hurting world and practicing unity within diversity.

For information on mission opportunities in our local community and beyond, contact Pastor Peter Norland, Covenant Community Church (879-4313).

Town of Jericho to form Jericho Energy Committee

The town of Jericho is in the process of forming an energy committee. The committee will have its first meeting on Wednesday, April 15 at Town Hall starting at 7:00 PM. Energy committees across the state are working on all kinds of interesting initiatives and this committee hopes to do similar work. Please join them on April 15. Coming to the meeting does not obligate you to join the committee, but they are hoping to share ideas and help plan for the future. For more information contact Phyl Newbeck at 899-2908 or phyl@together.net.

Friends of Brownell to hold Mud Season Book Sale

The Friends of Brownell Library are holding a March Mud Season Book Sale from Saturday, March 21 until Friday, March 27 during all library open hours in the lower level book room. Library hours are: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A lot of new material has been donated. Low, low prices are featured for everything: Hardbacks-\$1.50, Paperbacks-\$.75, YA, Children, and "Library Treasures"-.25, DVDs, Videos, Cassettes, and CDs-\$1.00.
 Questions: 878-6955.

CCMPO and CCRPC to hold targeted workshops

The Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) and the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) will be hosting three targeted workshops in March to get input from Chittenden County stakeholders on proposed goals, objectives and strategies for the Western Corridor Transportation Management Plan.

These workshops include: Livable Communities Workshop, Tuesday, March 24, 8:30 – 11:00 AM; Economic Development & Freight Workshop, Monday, March 30, 8:30 – 11:00 AM; and Local Government Workshop, Tuesday, March 31, 5:30 – 8:00 PM.

These workshops are open to the public but space is limited. Please RSVP at least one week ahead to Leslie Bonnette at 846-4490 x21 or lbonnette@ccrpcvt.org.

All workshops will be held at the CCMPO/CCRPC offices at 30 Kimball Avenue, Suite 102, South Burlington. Refreshments will be served.

The Western Corridor includes all modes of transportation – highways, rail, public transportation, air, bicycle and pedestrian – between Bennington and the Canadian border in western Vermont. The Vermont Agency of Transportation, CCMPO and the five Regional Planning Commissions in western Vermont are partnering on the Transportation Management Plan for the entire Western Corridor. The Plan's mission is to create "a unified long term vision for the highways and rail corridors in western Vermont and the development of balanced, environmentally responsible strategies that maximize system efficiencies, improve quality of life and promote economic vitality in the region."

Consultants have analyzed existing conditions as well as future conditions if no new projects are completed. These analyses, along with corridor stakeholder focus groups held in spring 2008, were used to identify corridor issues such as performance, capacity, safety, and lack of infrastructure investment. A proposed corridor vision, as well as proposed corridor goals, objectives, and strategies have been developed.

The March workshops are designed to give Chittenden County stakeholders a chance to provide feedback on the goals and objectives and to help refine and prioritize the strategies.

The draft corridor Implementation Plan with detailed recommended strategies will be presented to the public in May. Additional information about the Western Corridor Transportation Management Plan is available at <http://www.vtwesterncorridor.org/>.

United Way provides online calendars

The United Way of Lamoille County has two online calendars on their website which list activities in the Lamoille Valley. Visit www.uwlamoille.org. Click on Community Calendar on the left-hand side of the screen. A calendar will appear listing happening in our area. Click the right arrow next to the month to see what's going on in the future. These calendars are also useful when trying to plan an event to make sure it doesn't conflict with another activity. You may also list your activity by clicking on the directions link.

For questions about the online calendars, contact Nichole at the United Way office, 888-3252 or e-mail nichole.unitedw

Red Cross names gallon pin recipients

The American Red Cross Blood Services, New England Region acknowledged these caring individuals who recently received gallon pins: Thomas Woodard, Jericho, 34; Ramon Astillero, Jericho, 51; Rebekah Thomas, Jericho 52; Louise Mathews, Underhill Center, 18; Timothy Durbrow, Underhill Center, 50; Angie Meltzer, Westford, 1; Anna Nicole Spencer, Westford, 4; Frank Rheame, Jeffersonville, 33; John McCarthy, Jeffersonville, 49.

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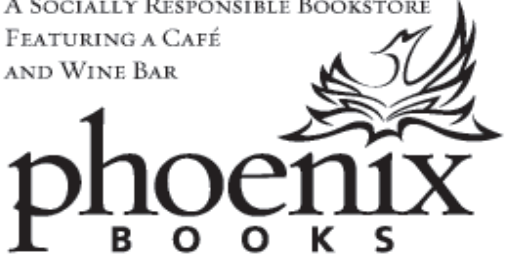
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Dan Noyes, Coordinator of RSVP and the Volunteer Center (RSVP), receives the "Agency of the Year" award from Dawn Archbold, United Way of Lamoille County (UWLC). UWLC and RSVP formed a partnership to create the Lamoille County Firewood and Ramp projects. The Firewood Project helped keep more than 25 families warm this winter, and the Ramp Project allowed 6 Lamoille County residents with disabilities to get the home modifications they needed.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

THE VIEW FROM THE CENTER

By J. Harrison L. Heidel


This is the time of year I often take stock of what's going on inside my head, almost to the point of considering a whole-life overhaul. My *checking in with myself* has nothing to do with the late-winter blues, the ideoes of March, mud season, or a string of losses among my favorite college basketball teams competing in the "March Madness" tournaments. It's not the effect of the Worm Moon (the traditional name for the full moon of March) or disappointment with any perceived failure at keeping a particular Lenten discipline. This time of each year the death of my parents, and a deeper recollection that they are gone, intensifies a sudden need to take control of my life. Becoming "nobody's child," losing both mother and father, was a turning point in my adult life.

Sharon Begley wrote a short essay in the April 3, 2000 issue of *Newsweek* magazine entitled "When You're Nobody's Child." After reading it I cut it out and have since kept it where I could find it. She wrote that the death of a parent(s) hits the baby-boomer generation harder because we came of age in a "period of optimism and unlimited horizons." And we know our parents worked hard to create that sense of optimism and unlimited horizons that they did not have.

My dad died first, twenty years ago this month. A victim of cancer, he was only sixty-eight years old. Mom missed him so much she kept his clothing in his closet for nearly a year after he died. One day over lunch she announced she was getting rid of his things that week. "A new boyfriend moving in?" I quipped. After pausing for a moment she put down her fork, folded her hands and replied, "No, I've smelled his scent out of all his things; I'm ready to let them go." We sat in silence for what seemed like a long time. With our appetites gone, we left the table and together emptied his closet and dresser drawers, folding and packing it all up in a reverent silence. Three years later, Mom was diagnosed with cancer; she died

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at home within two years.

After she was gone, I joked about being an orphan until I read Begley's essay and it really sank in that I was "nobody's child." The people who knew me best, loved me unconditionally, the ones who created me out of their love and knew my earliest history by heart...were gone.

Begley went on to write that baby-boomers have a "habit" of turning every one of life's milestones into a "consciousness-raising opportunity." Yep, that's me. My consciousness soars every March. Dad's death came in March, his death was my first brush with the death of someone I knew intimately, and I was with him when he died suddenly and without warning.

Because of my vocations in life, first as caregiver, now priest and pastor, people said over and over, "It was so good that you were with him when he died." No one said, "I'm so sorry you were alone with him when he died, that must have been awful." Standing there at his bedside, with no one between me and his grave, death came as too much of a shock to be smoothed over by a belief or fantasy of immortality. I recall that now, every time I stand in vigil with a family for their dying loved one. Death is awful, and we are all left wondering about life after death...it's enough to make one take stock of what's going on in their head, even consider a whole-life overhaul.

During one bedside vigil a few years ago, I asked a dying nursing home patient I had gotten to know well if there was anything I could do for her before I left for the day. Propped up in her bed, wearing a frilly bed jacket, with her thick, wavy, snow white hair brushed and combed flawlessly as to be beyond criticism, she motioned me closer and whispered to me, "I'd like just a taste of a pina colada." I looked over my shoulder and behind me in the direction of her two daughters...both had their hands folded and eyes closed thinking their mother and I were praying. I whispered back, "I'll be back in twenty minutes." "I'll get rid of them," she said.

"A pina colada in a plastic cup with a lid and straw to go; hold the little umbrella," I told the barkeep at Caddy's, my local pub. "It will be hard to plead 'no, I wasn't drinking and driving, officer' with this one, Hare." "It's a medicinal pina colada," I shot back, "and make it snappy."

My elderly friend took a long pull off of the straw, swallowed deeply and sighed happily. "You're a saint," she said, holding my hands in hers. "Now you know I have to perform two documented miracles before I'm beatified, my dear." "Getting a pina colada past my two teetotaler daughters, that's one," she said. She spent the next few days saying her good-byes.

We all know what is said about death and taxes; they're inescapable. That's why preparation for both is highly recommended. In spite of the personal head games I play this time of year, eventually my tendency to live life "heart over head" returns, renewal becomes my buzzword of the day, and I am curious about what will come my way every day. And who knows, maybe this will be year that Ball State University makes it to the Final Four...It'll be pina coladas all around, on me.

J. Harrison L. Heidel is an Episcopal Priest in Underhill, lives in Underhill Center, and writes about rural life.

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RICHMOND / HUNTINGTON

Donna W. Thompson, 75, died on Sunday, March 1, 2009 in Helen Porter Nursing Home in Middlebury, VT, following a brief illness. She was born August 17, 1933 in Huntington, VT, the daughter of the late Donald and Marion (Taft) Wheelock. She married Charles Warren Thompson in Huntington in 1952. He predeceased her on November 19, 2007. Donna had been employed at Snelling Industries in Shelburne, VT for many years. She kept very busy with her various hobbies. She loved watching game shows on TV, crossword puzzles, crocheting, and canning the produce from her gardens. She enjoyed watching the birds in her yard and her fish, and loved her many cats. She is survived by her daughter, Roselyn Thompson and husband Larry Beitel of Arizona; sons Robert Thompson and fiancée Michelle O'Neal of Bristol, and Reginald Thompson of Georgia, VT; nine grandchildren; two great-granddaughters; her brother, Leland Wheelock of Bolton, VT; her three sisters, Beverly Haskins of Richmond, VT, Delberta Little of Huntington, VT, and Dorothy Wheelock of Waterbury Center, VT; as well as her many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, Charles; their son, Roger; and her three brothers, Wayland, Edwin, and Hugh Wheelock. Visiting hours were Friday, March 6, 2009 at Gifford Funeral Home, 22 Depot St., Richmond. Funeral services were held on Sunday, March 8, 2009 at 2:30 PM in the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the American Lung Association of Vermont, 372 Hurricane Lane, Suite 101, Williston, Vt. 05495.

Deborah (Siple) Bauer of Canann, N.H., formerly of Richmond and Williston, VT, passed away on February 27, 2009, from cancer, surrounded by family. Deb was born in Colchester on April 3, 1953, and graduated from CVU in 1972. She spent many years working in the nursing profession in Vermont and New Hampshire. She leaves her beloved cat Arrielle and is survived by her mother Gina Gaudette; one sister, Penny Manning and husband Tom; two brothers, Steve Siple and companion Stacie, Sam Siple and wife Marilyn; her very special cousin, Charlene;



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three nephews; two nieces; three great-nephews; and many New Hampshire friends. Her father Ralph Siple and a sister Diana Siple-Cram predeceased her. The family would like to thank Pastor Joe and the entire staff at Hanover Terrace Healthcare for their wonderful care and friendship. In accordance with Deb's wishes, a private memorial service is planned.

RICHMOND FREE LIBRARY

The Library now has a family pass to the Birds of Vermont Museum in Huntington. Please ask at the circulation desk. On April 2 at 7:00 PM in the community room, Annemieke Spoelstra will give a solo piano performance.

Beginning March 17 from 7:00-9:00 PM and every Tuesday night thereafter, Karen Sutherland will host a Fiber Arts Social in the community room. Please bring any fiber arts project you may be working on and enjoy this social event.

March 28 brings the Social Band back to Richmond Library. They will be here from 5:00-10:00 PM.

On Wednesday, April 8, Mehdi Rahmatiwho is associated with the Mareefat Education Centerwill give a presentation about his native country, Afghanistan in the community room at 7:00 PM.

During the month of April the students from the Richmond Elementary School will be displaying more of their colorful, creative art on our walls and in the display case.

Every Monday during tax time, we have an AARP tax prep assistance person available at the library from 10:15 AM-1:15 PM. Please call 434-3036 to make an appointment. This service is free.

New audiobooks-*Mark Twain Tonight!* by Hal Holbrook, *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch, *NPR Driveway Moments: All About Animals, The Last Patriot* by Brad Thor.

New books-*Spirit of the Harvest: North American Indian Cooking* by Beverly Cox, *Scarpetta* by Patricia Cornwell, *A Country Called Home* by Kim Barnes, *A Darker Place* by Jack Higgins, *Hell Bent* by William G. Tapply, *City of Thieves* by David Benioff, *Saf-ron and Dreams* by Shaila Abdullah, *Halliburton's Army* by Pratap Chatterjee, *1848: Year of Revolution* by Mike Rapport, *Michelle* by Liza Mundy.

Richmond Free Library will be offering a free 6-week course, *Creative Nonfiction Basics: Memoir and Personal Essay Writing*, taught by Linda Cruise. The course will be held at the library's Community Room (2nd floor) on Mondays, from May 4 - June 15 (no class on Memorial Day Monday) from 6:30-9:00 PM. To register, please call the R.F.L. at 434-3036. Class size is limited to 12 students.

WELCOME HOME

RICHMOND
(Lefebvre) Mary (Wilcox) and Wayne Lefebvre had a daughter, Noelle Laura, on Wednesday, February 4, 2009 at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, VT.

COURT REPORT

February 11, 2009, **Aaron Josey**, 25, Richmond, VT, charged with buy, receive, sell, possess, conceal stolen property greater than \$100, felony, in Richmond, VT on July 16, 2008; amended to buy, receive, sell, possess, conceal stolen property less than \$100, misdemeanor; pleaded guilty; sentence deferred for three years.

CAMPUS HONORS

The following students from Richmond, VT have been named to the dean's list at Norwich University for the fall 2008 semester: **Devin Collins, Amelia Gilman, and Kathryn Ridgely.**

Kathleen M. Warren of Richmond, VT has been named to the dean's list for the fall semester at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY, where she is majoring in business administration.

MILITARY NEWS

Army Sgt. **Patrick M. McCabe** has returned from deployment in Mosul, Iraq after providing medical care to service members in Multi National Division - North for the past 15 months. During that time, soldiers from the 86th Combat Support Hospital treated almost 3000 patients and evacuated almost 300 to a higher level of care. McCabe is a practical nurse with three years of military service. He is the son of Todd L. McCabe of Richmond, VT and Peggy McCabe of Essex Jct., VT and a 2005 graduate of Mount Mansfield Union High School in Jericho, VT.

ART/MUSIC/THEATER

ART

The **Chittenden County Historical Society's** exhibit entitled *The Women of Chittenden County* will be on view at the Fletcher Free Library's Pickering Room during the month of March — National Women's History Month. This award-winning exhibit features a deceased woman from each city or town in Chittenden County who left her mark on her community. A program about them will be



A Celebration of the Seasons, watercolor paintings by Jericho artist and instructor Kathleen Berry Bergeron, at Magnolias Bistro, One Lawson Lane, Burlington through March and April. New classes starting soon. Kathleen Berry Bergeron, www.kathleenberrybergeron.com, 899-4628.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

held in the Pickering Room of Fletcher Free Library, 149 Church Street in Burlington, on Sunday, March 29, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM, with refreshments following. It is free and open to the public. For information call 863-5155.

During the months of March and April members of the **Essex Art League** will be exhibiting at various venues. Michelle Bradley, Michelle Jackson, Al and Suzanne Strong, Jennifer Fay, Bill and Rosalie Allard will display at the Fletcher Allen Health Center in Blair Park, Williston. Lynn Powers will show her work at the Essex Town Offices at 81 Main St., Essex Jct. For information call 862-3014 or visit www.essexartleague.com.

West Branch Gallery & Sculpture Park: "Human Landscapes" is an exhibition of paintings by Craig Mooney and Helen Shulman. Art Critic Ric Kasini Kadour will give a gallery talk at the opening, and catalogs for both artists will be available.

The West Branch Gallery is open Wednesday through Sunday from 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM and by appointment. For information or inquiries, please contact Amy Rahn by email, amy@stowevt.net, or by phone (802.253.8943).

Village Cup, Jericho, paintings by Mike Smith, mirrors by David Gale.

Flour Shop, Underhill, Chris White, photography; Tim Durbrow, photography; Pam Fiaschetti, paintings; Donna Owens, photography; Lee Cordner, photography; Chris Gluck's student art from Poker Hill Arts.

MUSIC

LOCAL MUSICIAN AMONG THE BEST

You wouldn't expect a kid who grew up in New Jersey and majored in astrophysics in college to end up as a musician in Vermont, but that's exactly what happened to Underhill resident Harry Schenawolf. He has been active in the Vermont musical community off and on since the late 1970s. High on his list of priorities is his annual participation in the Vermont Mozart Festival Orchestra.

Harry did not begin playing the double bass, or even develop a strong interest in music, until he was in college. Then that astrophysics major morphed into a teaching degree, and Harry started moving around the country, teaching and freelancing for a year in Vermont and for several years in California, spending time in Arkansas as a member of the Arkansas Symphony and on the faculty of the University of Arkansas, heading for a master's degree at Temple University in Philadelphia, and finally coming back to Vermont, where he'd wanted to be since that year in the 70s.



He became a music teacher in the Chittenden East School District, working at BRMS, CHMS, and MMU. He settled first in Monkton, then moved to Underhill about ten years ago, where he lives in Pleasant Valley with his English wife, Liz, his daughters Sophie (a junior at MMU) and Zoe (in eighth grade at BRMS), and his dog Wishbone. His older son, Tyson, works at the airport and has recently joined the Air National Guard.

Well known in Vermont's musical circles, Harry has been a member of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra and has taught music performance at UVM, Middlebury, SUNY Plattsburgh, and the Crane School of Music in Potsdam. He founded two summer music camps for kids, Vermont Rock Camp and Vermont Jazz Camp. After two years in England and some time doing graduate work in performance at the University of Colorado, Harry is currently teaching at the Crossett Brook Middle School in Duxbury and working two nights a week at the Youth Orchestra Center, giving private double bass instruction under an "endangered instrument grant" that provides students with free instruction in French horn, bassoon and double bass. He is also principal bassist with the Orchestra of Northern New York, and has appeared with such noted artists as Jamie Laredo and the Moody Blues. And he has the unusual

Art/Music/Theater continued on page 5

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He Knows.

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Art/Music/Theater continued from page 4

distinction of having turned down a gig with Bruce Springsteen!
 Harry can be heard playing during the 36th summer season of the Vermont Mozart Festival which will feature seven orchestral masterpieces, ranging from Mozart's "Jupiter Symphony" to Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue." Artists from around the world give 19 performances in scenic and historic Vermont locations. Featured venues include Shelburne Farms, Trapp Family Lodge, The Ponds at Bolton Valley, The Inn at Essex, and Richmond's West Monitor Barn. The festival runs from July 19 to August 9, 2009. For more information: www.vtmozart.org or 802-862-7352.

The Vermont National Guard and the Office of the Adjutant General are proud to present **Vermont's Own 40th Army Band** in concert. Performances will take place at the following locations across Vermont: Thursday, March 19, 7:00 P.M. – Colchester Middle School, Colchester and Friday, March 20, 7:00 P.M. – N. Eastern Clinton Central High School, Champlain, NY.

Further information about the 40th Army Band may be obtained by calling the unit's office in Colchester, weekdays, at 338-3480, or by visiting www.vtguard.com.

Roland Pigeon and Friends will perform at the **Westford Winter Music Series Free Concerts** at the United Church of Westford on Sunday, March 22 from 4:00-5:00 PM. A popular local artist well known for his musical renditions of old time fiddle music and country songs, Roland Pigeon will be the featured performer for March. Part of the disappearing landscape of Americana, Roland and his musician friends offer an afternoon of favorite square dance and other vintage tunes of rural Vermont. The program will be interwoven with a blend of modern and traditional music by musician friends. Roland has performed throughout Vermont for over 60 years representing a treasured musical heritage of this state.

The **Vermont Philharmonic**, under Music Director Lou Kosma, is seeking children to participate in a Youth Concert, Sunday, March 29, 2009, 3:30 PM at the Barre Opera House. The concert will feature children's artwork that will be projected on a big screen. Children are also invited to bring homemade instruments and participate with the orchestra during Haydn's Toy Symphony. The Green Mountain Youth Symphony and its conductor, Bob Blais, will also perform. The concert will feature a special performance of Snow Flurries by Thyme Plummer-Krause, a 6th grade student from the Mad River Valley area of Vermont, who wrote the piece as part of the Vermont MIDI Project. Tickets are free for participating children, and their parents pay only \$5. General admission is \$15, senior citizens are \$12, and students are \$5. A special family price is \$32 for the whole family.

The **Vermont Symphony Orchestra** continues to delight Burlington audiences with "Music of Our Time" in honor of the VSO's forthcoming 75th anniversary. In March the orchestra presents an all-American program showcasing three of its talented principal players—flutist Albert Brouwer, oboist Nancy Dimock, and trumpeter Mark Emery, with music director Jamie Laredo on the podium. The concert will be performed on Saturday, March 21 at the Flynn Center in Burlington at 8:00 PM. It will also be performed on Sunday, March 22 at the Paramount Theatre in Rutland at 4:00 PM as part of the Sunday Matinee Series.

For additional information or tickets, please call the FlynnTix Regional Box Office at (802) 86-FLYNN (863-5966), the VSO office at 800-VSO-9293, extension 10, or visit on line at www.vso.org "MUSIC WITH MIA", weekly musical storytime at University Mall. Kids can enjoy music, stories, and singalongs with local singer/songwriter Mia Adams. Located in the JCPenney Court every Monday at 10:30 AM. Free. Mondays, now through March 23, 2009. For more information, please call 863-1066 x11.

Nicolas Pellerin Trio (Nicholas Pellerin, Simon Lepage and Philippe Reny) on March 27 at 7:30 PM in Contois Auditorium at City Hall in Burlington. Presented by Alliance Francaise (of the Lake Champlain Region). Sponsored by the Québec Délégation to New England in Boston in celebration of La semaine de la francophonie and with cooperation from Burlington City Arts. For tickets contact 863-5966 or www.flynnitix.org. For presenter information contact www.afler.org or wordteam@yahoo.com.

Thursday, March 19
 Dave Keller at 7:30 PM at the Bee's Knees in Morrisville. Contact www.thebeesknees-vt.com.

Friday, March 20
 English Country Dance with Judy Chaves, Wendy Gilchrist, Martha Kent and Val Medve (teachers) and Aaron Marcus (piano, concertina) and Friends from 7:30pm to 9:30pm at the Elley-Long Music Center in Colchester. 1st and 3rd Fridays. Contact 899-2378, valandtom@myfairpoint.net or www.peter.burridge.net/dance

Contra and Square Dance with the Howdy Neighbor Band (Pete and Karen Sutherland, Tim Cummings, Nancy Beaven and

others) from 7:30 to 10:00 PM at the Hinesburg Town Hall. Benefits the moving and restoration of the Old Monkton Boro Schoolhouse. Part of a benefit dance series on third Fridays through April. Contact epact@gmavt.net.

Tiffany Pfeiffer and the Discarnate Band at 7:30 PM at the Bee's Knees in Morrisville. Contact www.thebeesknees-vt.com.

Saturday, March 21
 Laslo Cameo at 7:30 PM at the Bee's Knees in Morrisville. Contact www.thebeesknees-vt.com.

Karen McFeeters CD Release Concert at 7:30 PM at the McCarthy Arts Center Recital Hall at St. Michael's College in Colchester. 100% of concert proceeds and \$10 of CD sales benefit Kids On the Block Vermont. Contact 860.3349 or www.KidsontheBlockVermont.org.

Sunday, March 22
 Scott Forest at 7:30 PM at the Bee's Knees in Morrisville. Contact www.thebeesknees-vt.com.

Tuesday, March 24
 Bottomshelf Bootleggers at 7:30 PM at the Bee's Knees in Morrisville. Contact www.thebeesknees-vt.com.

Wednesday, March 25
 Greg Koons at 7:30 PM at the Bee's Knees in Morrisville. Contact www.thebeesknees-vt.com.

Thursday, March 26
 Jay Ekis at 7:30 PM at the Bee's Knees in Morrisville. Contact www.thebeesknees-vt.com.

Friday, March 27
 Copper Kettle at 7:30 PM at the Bee's Knees in Morrisville. Contact www.thebeesknees-vt.com.

The Two Man Gentleman Band at 9:00 PM at the Langdon Street Café in Montpelier. Contact www.langdonstreetcafe.com.

Saturday, March 28
 Open Mic with Elise and Jay at 7:30 PM at the Bee's Knees in Morrisville. Contact www.thebeesknees-vt.com.

The Concert for St. Patrick featuring Morgan Sullivan, the Celtic Knights, Prydein, the McFadden Academy of Irish Dance and others at 7:30 PM in the McCarthy Arts Recital Hall at St. Michael's College in Colchester. Part of the 14th annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival. A portion of proceeds supports the Vermont Family Network. Contact jgriffincart@smcvt.edu or www.vtishfestival.org

Trinity from 6:00 to 9:00 PM at Ri Ra in Burlington. Part of the 14th Annual Burlington Irish Heritage Festival. Contact www.vtishfestival.org.

Sunday, March 29
 Open Irish Session with Allen Church from 3:00 to 6:00 PM at the Bee's Knees in Morrisville. Contact www.thebeesknees-vt.com.

The Earthman Band at 7:30 PM at the Bee's Knees in Morrisville. Contact www.thebeesknees-vt.com.

Tuesday, March 31
 Joshua Panda at 7:30pm at the Bee's Knees in Morrisville. Contact www.thebeesknees-vt.com.

Thursday, April 2
 Rik Palieri and Rebecca Padula at 9:00 PM at the Skinny Pancake in Burlington. Contact www.rebeccapadula.com or contact@rebeccapadula.com

Friday, April 3
 Alan Jabbour and Ken Perlman with Pickpockets Band at 7:00 PM at the University of Vermont in Burlington. Part of the UVM Old Time Music Festival. Presented by the UVM Old Time Music Club, Events for Tom and others. Contact mrksustc@together.net or www.myspace.com/eventsfortom.

Eliza Gilkyson, John Gorka and Cliff Eberhardt at 7:30 PM in the Music Recital Hall at the University of Vermont in Burlington. Presented by the UVM Lane Series. Contact www.uvm.edu/laneseries.

Gordon Bok at 7:30 PM at the Covenant Community Church in Essex. Presented by the Underhill Jericho Folk Legacy Society. Contact 899-5219, jeanarchibald@suffglobal.net or www.timberheadmusic.com

English Country Dance with Judy Chaves, Wendy Gilchrist, Martha Kent and Val Medve (teachers) from 7:30 to 9:30 PM at the Elley-Long Music Center in Colchester. 1st and 3rd Fridays. Contact 899-2378, valandtom@myfairpoint.net or www.peter.burridge.net/

dance.
Saturday, April 4
 Old Time Fiddle and Banjo Workshops with Bruce Molskey, Alan Jabbour and Ken Perlman at the University of Vermont in Burlington. Part of the UVM Old Time Music Festival. Presented by the UVM Old Time Music Club, Events for Tom and others. Contact mrksustc@together.net or www.myspace.com/eventsfortom

Bruce Molsky with Mayfly at 7:00 PM at the University of Vermont in Burlington. Part of the UVM Old Time Music Festival. Presented by the UVM Old Time Music Club, Events for Tom and others. Contact mrksustc@together.net or www.myspace.com/eventsfortom.

7th annual *Cabin Fever Reliever* benefit dance concert featuring Bill Kirchen, the Starline Rhythm Boys, Girl Howdy and Elisabeth von Trapp at the Sheraton in Burlington. Benefits the Cancer Patient Support Program. Presented by Smith, Bell and Thompson. Contact www.flynnitix.org.

Sunday, April 5
 Northeast Fiddlers Association Fiddle Meet starting at 12 noon at the VFW in Hyde Park. Contact www.nefiddlers.org.

Ongoing events
 Tuesdays – Open Mic, 9:00 – 11:00 PM, Smuggler's Notch Inn, Jeffersonville, 644-6765.

Wednesdays – NIPS-West Open Potluck and Songs/Dance Tunes Session, Moshe's house, Essex, first and third Wednesdays; contact Moshe, 879-0876 or www.groups.yahoo.com/NIPS-West. Open Mic, 8:00 PM, Overtime Saloon, St. Albans; www.overtimesaloon.com. Open Mic Night, 6:30 PM on the first Wednesday of each month, Phoenix Books, Essex Shoppes and Cinema, Essex Center.


Thursdays – Open Mic, 8:00 PM – midnight, Village Tavern, Jeffersonville.

Saturdays – Acoustic music session, 1:00 – 4:00 PM, Foothills Bakery, Fairfax

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Chris D'Elia, Jeffersonville




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COMING EVENTS

Thursday, March 19

Estate Planning Basics Seminar, Hampton Inn, Mountain View Drive, Colchester, 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Attorney Désirée Johnson of Unsworth & Barra in Essex Jct. will present information about trusts, wills, probate, special needs trusts, advance directives, asset protection and long-term care, guardianships and other estate planning tools. Limited seating - Reservations encouraged. FREE / No Cost / No Obligation. Three ways to get more information or register: call 879-7133, email unsworthbarra@unsworthbarralaw.com or go online: www.VermontLegacyPlanning.com.

Amazing Race auditions, CBS hit show, University Mall, Dorset Street, 3:00 to 6:00 PM. All contestants may tackle the pre-audition inflatable obstacle course. An application must be filled out in advance and may be obtained at umallvt.com or at the Customer Service Desk. For more information please call 863-1066 x11.

Saturday, March 21

Roast Beef Dinner to benefit Make-a-Wish Foundation, sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of Essex Jct., VFW Post 6689, 73 Pearl Street, Essex Jct., VT. Cocktail hour is 5:00 to 6:00 PM followed by dinner at 6:00 PM. Christopher McBride, a sleight-of-hand artist, will be enticing you with his talents during the cocktail hour and will perform after dinner. The cost is \$12.00 per person. Purchase tickets in advance at the Essex Jct. VFW. Questions, call the Essex Jct. VFW at 878-0700.

Good Shepherd Preschool's Annual Spring Auction, Jericho Community Center on Browns Trace Road in Jericho Center. Viewing starts at 4 PM with bidding at 5 PM. Admission is free. All the proceeds benefit Good Shepherd Preschool. For more information call 899-3989 or visit the preschool's website at www.gspvt.com.

Cabin Fever Raffle Night, LUHS cafeteria, 5:30 PM. Refreshments will be available. Prizes include guided rock climbing, power tools, bike tuning, baseball hitting clinic, pass to Smugglers Notch water park, homemade quilts, meats, gift certificates, homemade items and much more. Plus, there will be a special raffle for a spring basket which includes a glider ride for 2 from Stowe Soaring, Stowe/Flake Day at the Spa, a Foxfire Inn gift certificate, a gallon of 2009 Maple Syrup and other maple products. 100% of proceeds go to Project Graduation. To donate to the raffle, contact Donna at 644-5851, Darcey at 644-8339 or Julie at 635-3571.

Saturday, March 28

Nectar's French Fries and Gravy: Nectar's, Deb & Nick Rorris are serving up their famous gravy fries & turkey to benefit the Greek Orthodox Church from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Greek Orthodox Church on the corner of South Willard Street and Ledge Road, Burlington. Call 862-2155.

The Underhill Conservation Commission Conservation Fair, Browns River Middle School, 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM. The fair will provide an opportunity for people of all ages to learn about the environment and participate in a range of conservation activities. There is no charge for attendance, and families and individuals of all ages are

encouraged to attend and participate. Parking will be available at the school parking areas.

Sunday, March 29

University Mall Mascot March and Easter Egg Hunt, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Dorset Street, So. Burlington. Meet local mascots as they "march" to the Easter Bunny Treehouse in Center Court, 11:00 AM to noon. Easter egg hunt, store-to-store, 12 noon-1:00 PM. Free event, recommended for ages 8 and under.

Sunday, March 29 - Saturday, April 11

The Easter Bunny visits University Mall. Meet him at his giant Treehouse in Center Court from noon to 8:00 PM every day.

Friday, April 3

Annual Italian Dinner, at the Westford School, served from 6 to 8 PM. This popular event provides a choice of meat or veggie lasagna or ziti, fresh garden salad, artisan breads, beverage, and home-baked cookies with B&J ice cream. The 8th graders, raising funds for their spring trip, serve the dinner. Fantastic raffle items are available. \$6 adults, \$4 children under 12, with \$25 maximum per family. Optional \$4 donation for senior citizens. Call 893-9965 with any questions.

English country dancing. Enjoy Jane Austen's favorite pastime at Elley-Long Music Center, 223 Ethan Allen Ave., Colchester, 7:30 to 9:30 PM. All dances taught by Judy Chaves and Val Medve to recorded music. Casual dress. Come with or without a partner. \$7/adult, \$5/student (appropriate for youths 12 and over). Info, 802-899-2378 or valandtom@myfairpoint.net. Website: www.peter.burridge.net/dance.

Saturday, April 4

Adopt-A-Thon sponsored by Greyhound Rescue of Vermont, from 11:00 to 2:00 PM at PetSmart in Williston. Greyhounds will be on site, plus pictures and information will be on hand of many other dogs ready for adoption. PetSmart is located off I-89 at Exit 12 in Williston. For more information call Sandra Farrell at 802-878-4844 or Sharron Thomas at 603-398-2300. Information is also available at www.helpinggreyhounds.org. Kennel visits can be scheduled by calling Sharron.

Saturday, April 4 and Sunday, April 5

11th Annual Franklin County Quilt Show, Saturday: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM; Sunday: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM. St. Albans City Hall, 100 N. Main Street, St. Albans. Sponsored by the Franklin County Quilters Guild. Admission is FREE. "The best and largest quilt show in Franklin County, Vermont!" Features over 100 quilts, viewers' choice awards, Mayor's Award, vendors, silent auction, demonstrations, door prize and raffle. Special exhibits include Purple Heart quilts, breast cancer quilts, 2009 charity quilt for the Franklin County Relay for Life, and charity quilts for numerous local organizations in Franklin County. For more information, call Sharon Perry, 802-326-3135, franklincountyquilters@gmail.com or visit www.vtmooses.us/fcqq.html on the web.

admission. Please bring soft-soled shoes. Information: pgallant1@msn.com or 802-863-3153.

Friday, April 17

English country dancing. Enjoy Jane Austen's favorite pastime at Elley-Long Music Center, 223 Ethan Allen Ave., Colchester. 7:30 to 9:30 PM. All dances taught by Judy Chaves and Val Medve. Music by Ana Ruesink on viola. Casual dress. Come with or without a partner. \$8/adult, \$5/student (appropriate for youths 12 and over). Info, 802-899-2378 or valandtom@myfairpoint.net. Website: www.peter.burridge.net/dance.

Saturday, April 25

Beekeeping workshop. Charles Andros, former NH/VT Apiary Inspector, will hold a beekeeping workshop from 1:00 to 3:30 PM, 18 MacLean Road, Alstead, NH. Look for the "BEE" sign on the south side of Walpole Valley Road. Topics of discussion will be early spring management: locating apiaries, equipment, handling bees, feeding syrup and supplements, making nuclei, reversing, and requeening. Bring a veil, if you have one, as we shall be opening some colonies. We'll be inside if it is a rainy day. Registration required. Email: lindena@sover.net or call 603-756-9056.

ONGOING EVENTS

ADULT ACTIVITIES

The **Essex Art League** holds monthly meetings at the First Congregational Church, 39 Main St., Essex Jct. For information, 862-3014.

Westford Knitters Group meets the first Friday of each month, 6:00-8:30 PM at the Westford Library. All needlecrafters in Westford and surrounding communities are welcome. Enjoy conversation with neighbors and friends while you work on your current project. Come early or late; bring a brown bag dinner and a drink if you like. For information: Julie Nelson, 343-0165 or Julie@coolmoonyoga.com.

Handbell ringers, Tuesday evenings, United Church of Underhill. All are welcome at rehearsals. Two ensembles; opportunity for small groups/shorter time periods. We ring a variety of music in a variety of settings and look forward to new faces joining us. Beginners welcome! Call Roger, 899-3106 for information.

The **Vermont French Canadian Genealogy Society library** is open for research Tuesdays 7:00 to 9:30 PM and Saturdays 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. We offer Vermont & Canadian Catholic Parish records, Vermont Vital Records on Microfilm, census records and other resources to assist with family history research.

Genealogy workshops will be held in March and April. The library is located at the Dupont Building, Hegeman Ave. across from the VT State Police building in Fort Ethan Allen, Colchester. For more information or an appointment call 862-8082, 878-8081, or go online at www.vt-fcgs.org/library or email us at mail@vt-fcgs.org.

HEALTH GROUPS

Alzheimer's Support Group - Free educational support group series for families coping with a loved one with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias. This series gives caregivers the opportunity to better understand and develop strategies for the future. Held monthly at The Arbors at Shelburne. For more information and to register, contact Nicole Houston, Director of Family Services, The Arbors at Shelburne, 985-8600.

Overeaters Anonymous meets 6:00 - 7:00 PM Wednesdays at the Jericho United Methodist Church, VT Rt. 15, Jericho.

TOPS Chapter 145 Jeffersonville meets 6:15 PM on Thursdays at the Eagles Club, Route 109, Jeffersonville. Weigh-in 5:30 - 6:00 PM.

Healing Circle Breast Cancer Network, support group for women with breast cancer, meets first Tuesday of every month at 5:30 PM, Northwestern Medical Center, Conference Room 1. Please RSVP at 524-8479.

Franklin County Prostate Cancer Support Group, first Tues-

Thursday, April 9

Westford Farmers' Market planning meeting, 6:30 PM, Westford Library, Rt. 128. All interested are welcome. Call 878-7405 for more information.

Friday, April 10

Beginner's Waltz Workshop, 7 - 7:30 PM, Shelburne Town Hall, 5320 Shelburne Road, Shelburne. No partner or experience required. FREE

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Session II A M, W, F • 9:00 am-3:00 pm Ages 4-9 Cost: \$252 June 15, 17, 19, 22, 24, 26	Session II B T, TH • 9:00 am-1:00 pm Ages 4-9 Cost: \$112 June 16, 18, 23, 25	Session III A Science Camp M, T, W • 9:00 am-3:00 pm Ages 6-9 Cost: \$126 June 29, 30 July 1

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day of each month, 5:15 - 7:00 PM, Northwestern Medical Center Conference Room #2, St. Albans. This support group offers men opportunities to educate themselves and each other; share and learn from each other's experiences; offer support to each other, a spouse or partner; and advocate early detection of prostate cancer. For information, Fern Mercure, 524-0719.

Fit Kids Support Group. first Mondays, 4:15 - 5:00 PM. Program for kids 8-13 and their parents. Learn about nutrition, physical activity, ways to increase activity level safely, changing eating behavior, self-esteem, and obstacles that interfere with weight management success. Northwestern Medical Center, Cobblestone Building, Classroom A. Speaker: Kay Tran, Reg. Dietitian, MS, CDE. Free; pre-registration required: 524-1234 or cflw@nmcinc.org.

Statewide Quit Line. Telephone Smoking Cessation Counseling. Call 1-877-YES-QUIT (1-877-937-7848). Free.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting. "Keep It Simple" group meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 8:00 - 9:00 PM, and Saturdays, 6:30 - 7:30 PM, at the United Church of Underhill, Underhill Flats.

KIDS

Underhill Playgroup. kids ages 0-5 with their caregivers are always welcome to join us Fridays from 9:30 - 11:00 AM at Underhill Central School for playtime, crafts, stories, songs and fun! For additional information or questions, please contact Heather Lebeis at 899-4415 or Underhillplaygroup@yahoo.com.

Bolton Family Play Night, in the Smilie School gym, usually the first and third Fridays, 6:00 - 7:30 PM. Free. Mostly unstructured play with the school's equipment. Contact Tim Grover, 434-4180.

Kids' Yoga, 3-5 years & 6 years and up, classes pre-registering now for February. Toddler tumbling and new moms' groups. The Well, 644-6700.

SENIORS

Jeri-Hill XYZ Seniors meet at the Town Hall in Underhill Center on the first and third Wednesday of each month. All seniors are welcome! Dinners are served at 11:30 AM. For information, please call Lenore Whitten, 878-8996, Bette Workman, 899-4446, or Loreen Teer, 899-1363.

Westford Senior lunches - Join Westford Seniors for lunch at the Red Brick Meeting House on the Common the second Monday of each month. Lunch is served at 12:00 noon with a short meeting or presentation following. Call 878-7405 or 879-7382 for information or for a ride.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES

Adult coed volleyball in Westford, 8:00 - 10:00 PM, Mondays, Westford Elementary School gym. Fun, casual volleyball. \$2 at the door. Call coordinators Jon and Tammy Brown, 872-8333, for information.

Bolton Men's Basketball, Tuesdays, 7:00 - 9:00 PM, Smilie School Gym. For adults and young adults, age 16 and up. Contact Bill Newton, 434-3348.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Alzheimer's support group, third Wednesday, 9:30 - 11:30 AM, The Arbors, 687 Harbor Rd., Shelburne. Free education for individuals and families in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. For information and to register, contact Nicole Houston, 985-8600.

Approach Autism With Advocacy, Recovery & Education (AAWARE) in the Lamoille Valley, third Sunday, 3:00 - 5:00 PM, Second Congregational Church of Jeffersonville Community Room, Jeffersonville. Special topics, guest speakers, resource information; playroom for kids, fenced side yard for outdoor play. For information, Terry Holden, 644-2759 (Jeffersonville) or Tina Karl, 888-3430 (Hyde Park.)

Veterans Job Networking. Wednesdays, 9:30 - 11:00 AM, VFW Post, Essex Jct.; 1:00 - 2:30 PM, American Legion Post, St. Albans.

Lamoille Valley Kin as Parents, second and fourth Thursdays, 6:00 - 7:30 PM, Lamoille Family Center, Morrisville. Dinner and child care provided. For more information, Imelda at 888-5229 ext. 152 or Rhonda Barr, 888-1376.

Eating Disorders Parental Support Group, third Wednesday, 7:00 - 9:00 PM, Covenant Community Church, VT Rt. 15, Essex Center. For parents of children with or at risk of anorexia or bulimia. We focus on being a resource and providing reference points for old and new ED parents. For information, Peter, 899-2554.

TOWN GOVERNMENT AND ORGANIZATIONS

Cambridge Area Rotary meets on the first Thursday of the month, rotating to local restaurants, 7:00 - 8:00 AM at 158 Restaurant, Main St., Jeffersonville. For information, call Anita Lotto, 793-0856, or Chuck Hogan, 644-8134.

Tim Nulty, Jericho Selectboard member, at the Village Cup, first and third Wednesdays, 8:00 - 9:00 AM, and at the Flour Shop, second and fourth Wednesdays, 8:00 - 9:00 AM.

Westford Fire Department, Mondays, 7:00 PM, at the fire station next to the Town Garage. Volunteer for firefighting, dispatching, radio communications, computer operations, grant writing, equipment maintenance, fire police, education, and much more. For information, email John Quinn, jquinnvt@aol.com.

Westford Food Shelf, open on the third Saturday of every month, 8:00 - 10:30 AM, United Church of Westford. All are welcome! Fresh produce, meat, and non-food items available.

Jericho-Underhill Water District meets first Monday of each month at the United Church of Underhill, Underhill Flats, 7:00 PM. For information, call 899-4076 or 899-3810.

Jericho Historical Society, second Thursday, 7:30 PM, Old Red Mill, Jericho.

Jericho Underhill Park District Board meeting, first and third Wednesdays, 7:00 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library project room, Jericho. Residents of Jericho and Underhill always welcome. 899-2693 for information.

Village of Jericho Board of Water Commissioners will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at 7:00 PM at the Old Red Mill on 4B Red Mill Drive in Jericho.

Fairfax Food Shelf has moved to the United Church on the corner of Fletcher Road and River Road, near the Foothills Bakery. The Food Shelf is open the first two Wednesdays, 9:00 AM - 12:00 noon. Please use the downstairs entrance. Information, 849-6588.

Jeffersonville's Bryan Gallery Celebrates Silver Anniversary

By Katherine Quimby Johnson
Special to the Mountain Gazette

2009 marks 25 years since what began as the Mary Bryan Memorial Gallery opened its doors and what is now the Bryan Memorial Gallery, renamed to recognize Alden Bryan, Mary's long-time partner in art as well as life, who founded the gallery in her memory. In recognition of its silver anniversary, the Bryan is mounting a year-long series of exhibits that began February 1 and runs through December 30.

"The gallery has grown slowly, slowly. It's evolved over the years into something perfect," said Barb Bertocci, who has served on the gallery's board of directors from its beginning. She concluded, "I think this is how Alden wanted it to end up."

"Passages," which opens on March 27, traces a similar process of evolution in an artists' work. Thirty living artists who knew Alden Bryan were invited to exhibit two works, one contemporary and one created 25 years ago. "We wanted this exhibit to reflect the passage of time in an artists' work," said Executive Director Mickey Myers. "Passages" will also include works by Mary and Alden Bryan that reflect the artistic development.

The passage of time is apparent in the gallery as well. Back in 1984, the gallery opened into one exhibit space, now known as the East Gallery, and according to Bertocci, it was really a two-person operation. "It was really Jane George Shaw and Alden Bryan. They did so much and there was no board. Then Alden put together this little board of people in town who were interested," said Bertocci, who has served on the board from the beginning. According to Myers, the board currently has 15 members.

Now the Bryan includes three galleries—the East Gallery was added in 1996 and the space connecting the East and West galleries was renovated in winter 2008 with support from a Cultural Facilities Grant from the Vermont Arts Council and became the Middle Gallery—and mounts as many as three exhibits at one time. After "Passages" closes in May, "Masters of Vermont: The Men," opens; that exhibit is a companion to the 2007 exhibit that focused on the paintings of five outstanding Vermont women artists and that was featured in the May-June issue of *American Art Review*, in an article written by Myers. The other gallery will be populated by "Flight, Fur and Felines," an exhibit dedicated to our fellow warm-blooded creatures.

As the gallery has grown, so has the staff. Shaw remained gallery curator following Alden Bryan death 2001, but stepped down after twenty years in that position. (She remained on the board until 2006 and now runs her own gallery, Visions of Vermont, in Jeffersonville). In 2007 Myers became director, moving to the Bryan from Stowe's Helen Day Art Center. Myers remains the only full-time paid member of the staff member, but four other people work part-time, bringing the total number of employees to 2.5 FTE. However, during its busy season, from the end of May to October, when the gallery is open daily, a core of 50 dedicated volunteers work at the welcome desk, assisting gallery visitors. "I don't think we could stay open as much without them," Bertocci says. "They're really important and we hope they know it." According to Myers, the gallery welcomed 6,000 visitors in 2008.

The Bryan Memorial



Alden Bryan



Mary Bryan

Mary Bryan Gallery

Gallery charges no admission. "You can come here any time," Myers said, adding that she views free entry as part of the gallery's community service and explaining, "If one family got turned on to going to an art gallery, that's a contribution." Certainly involvement in the gallery has changed Bertocci's life. With no prior artistic background, she said, being involved in the gallery "inspired me to take water color classes and hopefully I'm not the only one. I think the gallery has increased interest in the arts in town."

While entry to the Bryan is free, a gallery is an expensive enterprise to operate. "It costs \$600 a day to operate, whether the doors are open or not," Myers said. "The endowment doesn't even begin to pay for 20 percent of that." The Bryan is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit, but as Myers said, "that doesn't mean we don't have bills."

To both help meet expenses and to celebrate its silver anniversary, the gallery is holding a gala on April 11, the one ticketed event of the year. That event is to be a cocktail party catered by 158 Main, with art-themed fortune cookies by Fortunate Cookie of Stowe. Myers invites festive attire for the party, which will also feature Johnny Cassel at the piano, a number of toasts by visiting dignitaries, and the unveiling of a painting donated by Eric Tobin as the "raffle painting of the year."

Whether you attend the gala or stop by one of the exhibits, the Bryan is, Bertocci says, "A beautiful space to spend some time." In addition, "It really has gotten Jeffersonville to be nationally known and has brought at least Vermonters to little Jeffersonville," and, Bertocci adds, "that's a good thing for our local merchants."

For information about reserving tickets for the gala or about exhibit schedule, visit the gallery's website at www.bryangallery.org or call 644-5100.



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Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

Carpal tunnel syndrome is a painful wrist ailment. Symptoms can range from a mild numbness or faint tingling to excruciating pain. When the condition is severe, atrophy can be seen. These symptoms can be felt in the thumb, palm and the first three fingers. Symptoms seem to be worse at night and/or early morning. This condition can affect both men and women, although women are more commonly affected. The age at which this most often occurs is between 29 and 62. The following conditions are strongly associated with carpal tunnel syndrome: pregnancy, menopause, Raynaud's syndrome, hypothyroidism, and diabetes mellitus. Certain professions seem more inclined to develop carpal tunnel syndrome, particularly when repetitive motion or pounding are involved. People at risk include typists, musicians, construction workers, hairstylists and restaurant workers.

True carpal tunnel syndrome involves compression of the median nerve under fibrous tissue at the wrist. This entrapment can be due to direct injury, bone spurs, inflammatory arthritis, such as rheumatoid arthritis, or tendonitis. Hormonal changes due to pregnancy, menopause, premenstrual syndrome, hypothyroidism or diabetes mellitus can cause swelling, leading to pressure on the nerve.

Problems in other joints can also mimic carpal tunnel syndrome. The median nerve starts in the neck and travels through the shoulder and elbow. Misalignments at any or all of these sites can cause carpal tunnel-like symptoms. Consequently, working with a professional mindful of all these other possibilities is important to ensure a proper diagnosis is made and appropriate care is rendered.

Repetitive motion is often considered to be the cause. While typing may be a contributing factor in some cases, it does not totally explain the occurrence of this syndrome. People were typing during the 1950s without this syndrome being common. Therefore other factors must be considered. In the fifties, people knew their keyboards and their work was propped up and so the neck's normal curve was properly maintained. This means that proper posture and ergonomics must be practiced to help prevent carpal tunnel

syndrome. Other ways to prevent these uncomfortable problems include taking frequent breaks, shaking your hands regularly, avoiding salt (which causes swelling) and maintaining ideal weight. Pyridoxine (aka vitamin B6) helps the body get rid of excessive fluids. Chiropractic adjustment of involved joints can help correct the structural problems. Ultrasound can help decrease swelling, and other forms of physiotherapy can address any muscle imbalances that may be part of the condition. If the neck is involved, chiropractic pillows and adjustments can be beneficial.

Carpal tunnel is an uncomfortable problem of the wrist and hand but there is hope. Proper posture, ergonomics, nutrition and regular chiropractic care can help prevent or alleviate the syndrome.

Mary H. Kintner, D.C., R.N., is a chiropractor and nutritional consultant practicing in Jericho.

SPRING into Action by Quit Smoking

Spring is a time for new beginnings. It is also a time to make good on those self promises to quit smoking. "Spring is the fresh start many have been waiting for," states Copley Hospital Community Wellness Manager Linda Shaw, RN, referring to those who smoke. In an effort to help community members successfully quit smoking Copley Hospital, in collaboration with the Vermont Department of Health's 'Vermont Quit Network' program, offers a six-week class that addresses strategies and provides support. This next series is scheduled to begin in April.

Why should you quit? Smokers are at far higher risks for developing cardiovascular diseases, cancers, emphysema, bronchitis and tuberculosis. These diseases cause serious illness, disability and premature death. In fact, Shaw says "One-third of all tobacco users will die prematurely from tobacco related diseases, shortening their own life span by 13.2 years in men and 14.5 years in women.

Regardless of how long you've smoked Shaw notes there are benefits of quitting and offered the following:

- After 20 minutes of quitting your blood pressure decreases, pulse rate drops and your body temperature of hands and feet increases.
- Within 8 hours carbon monoxide level in the blood drops to normal and your oxygen level increases to normal.
- Within 12 hours your body begins to heal itself.
- At 24 hours of quitting your chance of heart attack decreases.
- In addition to your smell and taste enhanced by day 2, nerve endings start regrowing.
- Your heart and lungs begin to repair the damage caused by smoke.
- Circulation improves, walking becomes easier.
- And, after 15 years of quit smoking the risk of coronary heart

disease is now similar to that of people who have never smoked.

Did you know that tobacco smoke contains more than 60 carcinogenic agents (a substance or agent producing or inciting cancer) that includes ammonia, arsenic, carbon monoxide and formaldehyde? Shaw explains that nicotine is not carcinogenic, it is the substances in cigarettes that causes addiction.

Quitting can be difficult, but Shaw notes one thing is for certain, "quitting is easier if you understand the effect of smoking and why you smoke." She explains that education is key to successfully quitting. Knowing is Power. "When a smoker is aware of what to expect they are that much more ahead of working around those bumps in the road."

"The program offers ways to help Vermonters quit smoking," says Shaw. In addition to working with you and as your schedule allows, the program is available by phone, email or in person. For instance the online support provides options including self-help tools and chat groups where you can talk with other smokers who know what you're going through.

If you are ready for a new beginning contact Copley Hospital's Wellness Center at 802-888-8209.

Lamoille Home Health offers hospice volunteer training

Volunteers play a vital role in hospice care and are trained to understand the needs of a terminally ill patient. They also play an active role in relieving patient caregivers and offer companionship to patients by reading to them or simply listening.

Come join Lamoille Home and Hospice and learn how you can walk with a patient and his or her family through the many changes of a terminal illness. Training will be held at our office located at 54 Farr Avenue in Morrisville. Dates are April 29 and May 6 (evenings) and May 2 and 3 (daytimes).

To register, contact Charlene at 888-4651.

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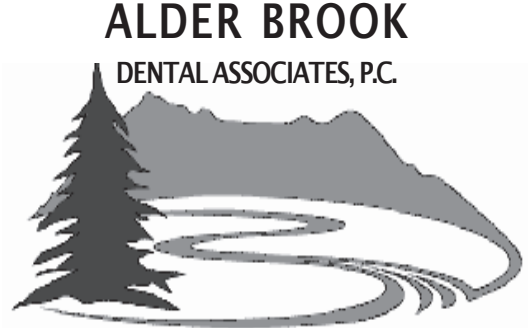
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Notes from Montpelier

By Rep. Bill Frank

I enjoyed talking with so many of you at Town Meeting this year, thank you for great conversations. For the past 41 years Senator Bill Doyle has done an informal Town Meeting Survey. He asks questions of general interest to all Vermonters like "Should drivers be prohibited from using cell phones while driving?" This year 164 Underhill residents answered the poll, 139 from Jericho and 53 from Bolton. Senator Doyle has not tallied all the surveys but Rep. Till and I have counted the 356 surveys from Underhill, Jericho and Bolton; you can see the result at my web site www.RepBillFrank.com. By the way, 68% survey takers responded yes to the question to prohibit using cell phones while driving. For those of us who live in Underhill we will meet again Saturday, April 4 to approve the town budget for next year.

As I have talked about before, my personal special interest in the legislature this year is to pass legislation ensuring that all Vermonters have knowledge and access to Palliative Care. I worked last session to get a bill passed to have a summer/fall legislative study committee. I was a co-chair of this committee and was pleasantly surprised how many people came to our committee meetings to testify and tell us what is working and what is not working in Vermont in the Palliative Care area. I made sure the House Human Services Committee heard testimony from many people on Palliative Care. Just before our Town Meeting break we created a committee bill that addresses the major areas of concern. I expect the Human Services committee to complete work on this bill by March 20. There are nine major areas to this draft bill including: Purpose and Definition, Patients' Bill of Rights and Right to Information, Medicaid Waiver for Pediatric Palliative Care, Inclusion of Palliative Care in the Blueprint for Health, Adding Treatment of Pain to Scope of Practice Statutes, Continuing Medical Education, Expanding the Advance Directive Registry, Clarifying Confusing Language on Calculation of Penalties, and Reporting Requirements. The draft bill is available on the legislative web site at www.leg.state.vt.us. I would like to hear any comments you have on this important topic and this bill.

Rep. George Till and I will be at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library Thursday evening, April 2 from 6:30-8:00 PM. If you are able please come and share your thoughts and questions with us. We are open to talking about any topic you would like to bring up. I'm sure most topics will invoke a discussion among all us. Please plan to join us. Tuesday, May 5 will be the next session, same time and same place.

As always I like to hear from you, either by email at my new address Bill@RepBillFrank.com, at 899-3136 or 19 Poker Hill Rd, Underhill, 05489.

From the Statehouse

By Rep. Martha Heath
The Second Half

After a two-week furlough the legislature will reconvene on Tuesday, March 17. We have much left to accomplish in the remaining weeks of the session.

Before we left for our Town Meeting break, the leaders of the legislature laid out a plan for balancing the FY2010 budget. The plan uses a combination of budgets cuts, increased revenue and money from the federal stimulus bill. While the parameters are similar to the governor's, there will undoubtedly be some differences both in where we choose to make cuts and how we will raise revenue.

The legislature will work hard to find budget reductions that don't erode the forward progress we have made in providing health insurance coverage for more Vermonters, and that protect the elderly and the poor while trying to make decisions that pave the way for the rebound of Vermont's economy when things begin to improve nationally. That said, no cut is easy and there will undoubtedly be painful decisions that will affect state agencies and the nonprofit organizations that serve state needs. The goal established by our leadership is to find \$28M in further reductions to state spending.

The House Ways and Means Committee will be holding a hearing on March 17 about possible ways to raise revenue. The goal is to raise \$24M. The committee has a variety of bills and ideas it is considering. One is to undertake an aggressive effort to collect taxes that are owed to the state now. Others include a surcharge on those with incomes greater than \$250,000, taxing soda and candy, and increasing the cigarette tax.

How does the leadership proposal compare to the governor's proposed budget? The governor made \$51M in cuts but then added \$23M in spending for a net reduction in base spending of \$28M, the same as our goal. On the revenue side, the governor used \$63M in property taxes to balance his budget. He argues that if school boards had proposed budgets with level funded per pupil spending, his budget would not increase property taxes. While this is technically true, it hides the fact that he proposes to spend most of the savings Vermonters would have seen had school boards made damaging cuts to their budgets. While these cuts would have lowered property tax bills to some degree, over 6 cents of the savings would have been used to pay for programs that have previously been paid for with general fund dollars. Is using these 6 cents of potential savings for other purposes a property tax increase? I would say yes.

The legislative proposal relies on federal stimulus money to build a bridge to further base budget savings in the future. A number of legislative committees are working on proposals to make government more effective and efficient. Would it make sense to combine the Agency of Commerce and the Department of Labor and reduce middle management positions in the process? Can the Judiciary be put on a more sustainable track with the proposals made by the Chief Justice? Does the recently released report on policing hold promise for efficiencies? Should we create a Department of Revenue to more efficiently collect money across all state agencies? Can we reinvigorate the program developed from the work of the commission on effective government headed up by David Coates and Mary Powell that recommended using technology and other strategies to reduce the workforce as state employees retire? Should all departments that administer programs funded by Medicaid be combined into one agency to more effectively serve Vermonters who receive these funds from more than one program? These are areas we will continue to explore in the coming weeks.

If you have comments or questions about these or other issues the legislature is working on, please don't hesitate to contact me by calling 893-1291 or by e-mailing me at mpheath@aol.com.

WELCOME HOME



Jericho

(Benedict) Dan and Tracy Benedict of Jericho are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Adyna Marie. She was born February 15 at 5:42 PM at Fletcher Allen Health Care. She weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce and was 21 inches long. She joins a very proud big brother, Alex, at home. Her grandparents are Carl and Judy Spaulding of North Springfield and Phil and Sue Benedict of Northfield.

ENGAGEMENTS

DUBUQUE - REID

Laurie and Lenny Dubuque would like to announce the engagement of their daughter Rachel Dubuque to Patrick Reid, son of Mary Ellen and Richard Reid. Rachel graduated from Mount Mansfield High School in 2004. She graduated from the University of Vermont in 2008 with a degree in Engineering Management with a minor in math. Patrick graduated from Mount Mansfield High School in 2002. He graduated from Clarkson College in 2006 with a degree in Information Technologies. They both work at Green Mountain Coffee Roasters in Waterbury. An August 8, 2009 wedding is planned.

GRAVES - SHAW

William Hughes Graves and Elizabeth Nybakken Graves of Norfolk, VA announce the engagement of their daughter, Sarah Elizabeth Graves, to Charles Cronin Shaw, son of Terry and Jane Shaw of Jeffersonville, VT and Sandra and Albert Jones of Loudon, NH. A September 19, 2009 wedding is planned.

ENGAGEMENTS

Catherine Fowler Hook, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Terence B. Hook of Jericho Center, VT and a senior at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, VA, has earned a place on the dean's list for the fall term.

Scott Willson of Jericho, VT was named to the 12th grade honor roll at Tilton School in Tilton, NH for academic achievements during the second semester.

The following area students have been named to the dean's list at Norwich University for the fall 2008 semester: Michael Filipek of Jericho, VT; Nathan Holt of Jericho, VT; Felicia Desorcle of Westford, VT.

Owen K. Reinders of Jericho, VT has been named to the fall dean's list at Keene State College in Keene, NH.

OBITUARIES

Edward C. Bigelow, 65, died on Friday, March 6, 2009 in Fletcher Allen Health Care, Burlington, Vt. He was born on December 5, 1943 in Burlington, Vt., the son of Clarence E. and Blanche I. (Mongeon) Bigelow. He was a very caring and loving father who loved to work on cars. He was married to Mary M. (Hamlin) Palin for 21 years, the mother of his children. He is survived by two daughters, Kimberly D. Heath and her husband Clifford of Essex Junction, Vt., and Brendalee Maxfield of Essex Junction, Vt.; four sons, Edward C. Bigelow and his fiancée Brandi Provost of Essex Junction, Vt., William C. Bigelow and his fiancée Samantha Prim of Essex, Vt., Gary J. Bigelow and his wife Raquel of Cabot, Vt., and Daniel C. Bigelow and his fiancée Anita Goudin of Milton, Vt.; a stepson, James J. Palin and his wife Paula of Colchester, Vt.; 17 grandchildren; his mother Blanche I. Garvin of St. Albans, Vt.; his sisters and their husbands, Gloria and Gary Adams of Orlando, Fla., Nancy and Edwin Brehaut of Georgia, Vt., and Debbra and Ronald Stearns of Ferrisburg, Vt.; and one brother, Leroy Bigelow of New York. The family wishes to thank the staff of Fletcher Allen for their wonderful care on the medical unit, E.R. and I.C.U. units. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Joseph Co-Cathedral, Burlington. Interment will be held in the spring. Arrangements by Elmwood-Meunier Funeral Home, 97 Elmwood Ave., Burlington.



Tarah Woolgar, an assessment counselor and case manager at Maple Leaf Farm in Underhill Center, VT, recently received certification as a certified alcohol and drug abuse counselor. She has also completed the first year of her master's degree in community mental health at Southern New Hampshire University, with one more year to complete her degree.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

4-H



4-H Backyard Farming Club seeking members

Does your child love animals of all kinds? Would your child like to learn more about and have hands-on experiences with chickens, ducks, alpacas, homing pigeons, dogs, cats, and more? Would you like your child to develop life skills such as: communication, citizenship, decision-making, leadership, interpersonal relations and community and global awareness? If the answer is yes or maybe, then continue reading.

The University of Vermont Extension 4-H program, together with 4-H Volunteer Leader Karen Nicholson and children Abby (12) and Eric (10), are offering area youth the opportunity to learn about and work with the many different animals they have on their farm in Stowe. The 4-H Backyard Farming Club is geared for youth ages 9-16; older youth may have the opportunity to become teen leaders. Youth will learn about many aspects of a broad range of animals while engaging in meaningful projects that are fun and will give them invaluable life skills.

Youth interested in joining this new 4-H club should come to the UVM Extension Office at 29 Sunset Drive in Morrisville for an informational meeting on Wednesday, April 1 at 6:30 PM.

For more information or directions, please contact Lauren Traister, 4-H Educator, at 888-4972 x103, lauren.traister@uvm.edu or Volunteer Leader Karen Nicholson at Karen@stowealpacas.com.

Attorney Richard J. Fox presents at the National Business Institute seminar

Attorney Richard J. Fox, of ABX Title Department of Unsworth & Barra Law Office in Essex Junction, presented for the National Business Institute's Seminar "In-Depth Title Insurance Principles." Attorney Fox presented three sections of the seminar: "Understanding Title Insurance Policies," "Endorsements and Exceptions" and "Real Estate Transactions With Legal Entities." This was an advanced level seminar designed to maximize title insurance knowledge. "In-Depth Title Insurance Principles" was well attended by attorneys, title insurance specialists, real estate professionals, bankers and paralegals.



Attorney Fox focuses on real estate, landlord/tenant law, civil litigation and construction law. Fox graduated from Rutgers College with a B.A. in English, History, and Political Science, and received his *Juris Doctorate* from the George Washington University Law School.

Attorney Fox is admitted to practice law in both Vermont and Massachusetts, and also before the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts. He is a native Vermonter with roots in Charlotte. Fox currently resides in Shelburne, where he volunteers as an EMT with Shelburne Rescue and as a leader with Shelburne Cub Scout Pack 607.

Unsworth & Barra, PLC's team provides comprehensive estate planning and legacy planning, landlord/tenant law, civil litigation, business formation and mediation services to clients throughout Vermont.

RECIPES BY MARIAN TOBIN

Whole Wheat Biscuit

By Marian Tobin

- 1 cup whole wheat flour
 - 1 cup all-purpose flour
 - 1 tablespoon baking powder
 - 1 teaspoon salt
 - 1/3 cup shortening
 - 1 cup whole milk or diluted evaporated milk
- Mix dry ingredients together, cut in shortening, add milk gradually, mix gently into a soft dough. Place on lightly floured board, roll to 1/3 inch in thickness. Cut and place on cookie sheet. Bake at 400° for 15 minutes.



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Crag-VT continued from page 1

years. The organization would have been more than happy to make that parcel their only holding. After all, they consider themselves primarily an advocacy group. But when they approached the town of Bolton about taking title to another climbing area known as Upper West Bolton Cliff for which they had begun a fundraising campaign, the town demurred. CRAG-VT had done such a good job taking care of the quarry that the town felt they should own Upper West themselves, if they were able to raise money for the purchase.

Upper West, also known as Resin Ridge, is a popular rock climbing location at the top of Notch Road, rising roughly 250 feet high. While it is primarily a climbing destination, the land is also suitable for bird watching, hiking, skiing and snowshoeing, and is home to several rare natural communities. It abuts a 406 acre parcel known as Preston Pond Conservation Area which was conserved as part of the Chittenden County Uplands Project.

Upper West is an 18 acre lot which has been separated out from two existing parcels. The Bolton Development Review Board ap-

proved the subdivision earlier this year. At this juncture, CRAG-VT has raised close to \$18,000 toward the purchase price of \$68,000. Technically, the land itself costs only \$25,000, but CRAG-VT also wants to add a conservation easement with the Vermont Land Trust.

Travis Peckham, President of CRAG-VT, reports that a lot of the money has come in the form of small donations such as the Dollar Boards which have been put up at local retailers. There have also been a number of low-key fundraising events including slide shows of trips taken by CRAG-VT members to places as diverse as Majorca and Pakistan. The group also solicited donations at local events such as the Banff and Telluride Film Festivals, and has held three fundraising evenings at Petra Cliffs.

CRAG-VT's biggest fundraising event will take place on April 18 at Petra Cliffs. A repeat of the Everest Challenge Climbathon which raised \$8,000 for the Bolton Quarry purchase in 2004, the event asks participants to raise pledges of money for every foot they climb, with the goal being 29,035, or the height of Mount Everest. Peckham said he was optimistic the event, which will also feature food, music and a raffle, would again prove to be profitable. In addition, CRAG-VT's latest membership drive has been its most successful in years, with members contributing significantly higher amounts than in previous campaigns. The group is also attracting new members, and Peckham expects more will sign up as a result of the Everest Challenge. He anticipates that anyone raising a minimum of \$50 will automatically become a member of the organization.

Funds for the purchase need to be acquired before the end of the year, so CRAG-VT has also applied for several grants. They are one of twenty-three finalists for a \$24,000 grant from the Conservation Alliance. The money can be used only for the purchase price, not for the conservation easement. Peckham, however, is adamant about the conservation easement. "Our goal," he said, "is not to be a landowner, but to make sure the land is permanently protected." CRAG-VT is also pursuing a Recreation Trails Grant on the theory that a climbing route is a vertical trail. This tactic worked for the Bolton Quarry purchase and Peckham hopes it can be repeated.

CRAG-VT also asked the Bolton Conservation Commission for money from the town conservation fund. The Commission voted to provide \$7,500, contingent on the Selectboard's allowing them to release the funds. The Selectboard was not inclined to do so and scheduled a hearing for CRAG-VT to explain the request. No decision was made at that hearing and subsequent presentation by CRAG-VT is being scheduled.

"I am confident we are on track," said Peckham. "We have a fantastic amount of support from the climbing community including young people." Peckham acknowledges that CRAG-VT has not directly sought support from the citizens of Bolton yet, but he plans to do so, particularly if the organization's grant requests are not funded. "It's such a beautiful property," he said. "If you hike out from the Long Trail you can see Mount Mansfield and Camel's Hump in the distance and beaver ponds in the foreground. It is home to many of Vermont's most treasured rock climbs."

Kindergarten Registration for Jericho Elementary School

Registration information for the 2009-2010 school year has been sent to families in the Jericho Elementary School district. If you have a child who will be 5 years of age by September 1, 2009 and have not received a registration package, please call the school at 899-2272. Kindergarten registration will be held on Friday, April 17, 2009.

Underhill Little League to hold registration

Registration for Underhill Little League Baseball will take place on March 23 and 24 at Browns River Middle School from 6:00 to 7:30 PM each night. Little League is open to all Underhill boys and girls, ages 5-12. For more details, you can visit www.uhll.org or call Jon Boyson, 899-2107.

LIBRARY

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Art for March is portraits by Diane Parenteau. The Board of Trustees meets Thursday, March 19 at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend.

On Tuesday, March 24 at 7:00 PM, the library will be presenting a travelogue to New Zealand. New Zealand offers stupendous scenery, easily accessible by very well maintained trails. Backpacking is made easy by huts with communal kitchen facilities along these trails. Cilla Kimberly lived in New Zealand in 1972 and she and her husband Jerry Lasky have returned every 5 or 6 years for hiking and backpacking. They will show slides from their last two trips and discuss travel in New Zealand.

The Mystery Book Group will meet Wednesday, March 25 at 7:00 PM. They are currently reading *The Murders at Rue Morgue* by Edgar Allan Poe and *Mysterious Affair at Styles* by Agatha Christie. Please join them for a lively discussion.

Thursday, March 26 at 6:30 PM the library will host the Valley Dream Farm CSA. This family farm owned by the Tisbert family is located in Cambridge and Underhill. Come learn about this certified organic farm and the CSA program they offer.

The next movie night will be Friday, March 27 at 7:00 PM. The film is a new release starring Angelina Jolie and is directed by Clint Eastwood. The movie is rated R. Call the library for the title. 899-4962.

Sunday, March 29 at 5:00 PM the library will be showing a documentary on the world oil crisis with a discussion to follow. This film is cosponsored with the Jericho Underhill Sustainability Group. For the complete movie title please call the library. All films are free and open to the public

The Friends of DRML will meet Tuesday, March 31 at the library at 7:00 PM. Please join us.

The final Music Sunday for this season will be April 5 at 2:00 PM. *The Music of Songwriting* will be the presentation. Several well known artists will be playing and discussing how they write their songs. A large crowd is expected so please email our music program coordinator to reserve a place: lshelmandine@yahoo.com

Friday, March 20 at 10:30 AM, parents and infants one year old and younger are invited to attend our Welcome Baby group. Participants will receive a welcome baby bag with gifts and information about community resources. Parents who have already received their welcome baby bag are encouraged to return to meet other families. Cosponsored with Building Bright Futures. Facilitator: Eliza Kramer.

Music with Peter, Tuesday, March 24 at 11:30 AM. The ever popular Peter Alsen returns for his third performance this year. Families with toddlers and preschoolers will enjoy singing and moving to his songs.

Geocaching, Thursday, March 26, 9:00-10:30 AM. Using handheld GPS units, Mike Weinberg will lead participants on a high-tech treasure hunt in Mills Riverside Park. Ages 10 to 15. Advance registration required. Call 899-4962.

Afternoon Art, Thursday, March 26 at 1:30 PM. Join Jen King in creating decorative sun catchers. For children in grades two and up. Advance registration required. Call 899-4962. Funded by the Winnie Bell Learned Grant.

Library hours: Tuesday 12:00 - 8:00 PM, Wednesday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Thursday 12:00 - 8:00 PM, Friday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Sunday 1:00 - 4:00 PM; closed Monday. For information on any of the library's programs, call 899-4962.

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Saturday, March 21, 9:00-10:30 AM, TAB (Teen Advisory Board-grades 7-12) meeting. Join and have fun with the fabulous TABbers. Refreshments served. Please support the TAB Snowflake Chocolates fudge fundraiser. Reminder: Snowflake Chocolates Fudge forms are due by March 23. Chocolate will come in by April 4 in time for Easter.

Monday, March 23 from 6:30-8:00 PM *String Fling* continues. Get together to work, chat, encourage others, and laugh. Stay for all or part of the night. All skill levels welcome. Bring everything string—knit, crochet, embroider, quilt, sew, mend, hemp, beaded jewelry, rug hooking, etc.

Come celebrate National Poetry month during April with us. *Changes That Transform* – This is the theme for the sixth annual poetry reading and writing workshop directed by retired UVM Professor Mary Jane Dickerson sponsored by the Jericho Town Library and the Deborah Rawson Library. The working sessions will meet Monday, March 30, Monday, April 6, and Monday, April 13, from 6:30-8:00 PM at the Jericho Town Library, and conclude for a final evening of sharing at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library on Monday, April 27 from 6:30-8:00 PM. Poets of all ages are encouraged to participate. Attendance in the past has been a mix of middle and high school students and adults. Registration is required; please call JTL at 899-4686 to sign up.

Saturday, April 4, 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM, book sale at the Jericho Town Library. Pick up some good books at bargain prices.

Saturday, April 11, come meet Anna Dewdney from Putney, VT, author of the Llama, Llama books! Raffle tickets for \$1.00 are currently on sale to win an alpaca pelt teddy bear donated by Terry Miller, a stuffed llama donated by June Taylor and a signed copy of Anna's newest book, to be released March 19, *Llama, Llama Misses Mama*. All proceeds will go to the library. This event is hosted by the terrific TABbers. It has been made possible by a grant from the Winnie Bell Learned Fund, a fund established in 2006 by Dr. Burnett Rawson which generously provides assistance to small public libraries in Vermont.

Feeling shut in? If you are sick or having a hard time getting around, call us so we can bring you a good book (large print also available) at 899-4686.

If anyone wants to volunteer to be a part of the catalog automation project underway there is still more work to be done, which includes computer and non-computer tasks. So if you have even an extra hour or two please consider helping. For more information call the library at 899-4686.

High school students needing to fulfill community service please volunteer at the library when your schedule permits. Your help is really appreciated. Call or stop by.

Story time including craft and snack is held every Wednesday upstairs at 10:00 AM. Come share the joy of books, finger plays, flannel board, and songs with guitar music led by Derek. Upcoming themes: Wednesday, March 25, 10:00 AM – Wind and Weather; Wednesday, April 1, 10:00 AM – Bunnies; Wednesday, April 8, 10:00 AM – Special host Elise Doner.

The Board of Trustees meets regularly the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM at the library. The public is welcome so join us at our upcoming meetings on April 2 and May 7. The hours for the Jericho Town Library on the Green are Monday and Friday 1:00-5:00 PM, Wednesday 10:00 AM-12:00 PM and 2:00-6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM-1:00 PM. For more information call 899-4686 or email us at Jerichotownlibrary@gmail.com.

WESTFORD TOWN LIBRARY

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, March 14, 6:30 PM, Women's Game Night. Join this fun and welcoming group for games, food and laughter. Contact Kara Bolton at 879-2513.

Wednesday, March 18, 6:30-7:00 PM, PJ Storytime. Jump into your pj's and head to the library for stories, crafts and activities led by Lynn Finn. Theme: Eric Carle.

Thursday, March 19, 11:00 AM: Storytime. Stories and activities for preschoolers. Theme: Sugaring.

Thursday, March 26, 11:00 AM: Storytime. Stories and activities for preschoolers. Theme: Cows.

Friday, March 27, 6:00 PM: Strategy and Board Games for Teens and Adults. Hosted by Matt Taylor.

Thursday, April 2, 11:00 AM: Storytime. Stories and activities for preschoolers. Theme: Safari.

Friday, April 3, 6:00 PM: Westford Knitters. All needle-crafters welcome.

Wednesday, April 8, 6:00-7:00 PM: Book Discussion. *Watership Down* by Richard Adams.

Thursday, April 9, 11:00 AM: Storytime. Stories and activities for preschoolers. Theme: Farming.

Thursday, April 16, 6:45 PM: Thursday Night at the Movies! Come enjoy an Oscar award winner or nominee and popcorn! Movie to be announced.

New Additions to the Collection: DVDs - Thanks to generous patrons: Adult: *I Am Legend, The Alamo, 10,000 BC*. Juvenile: a variety of *Thomas and Friends, Bob the Builder, Winnie the Pooh* and *Dora the Explorer* DVDs. We gratefully accept DVDs.

We are open Wednesday 1:00-7:00 PM, Thursday 10:00-6:00 PM, Friday 1:00-6:00 PM, and Saturday 10:00-2:00 PM. Free Wifi is available during library hours. We can be reached at 878-5639, www.westford.lib.vt.us or westford_pl@vals.state.vt.us.

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY NEWS

Appreciate art at the library. The Varnum Memorial Library is currently displaying the work of two local artists. Lydia Johnson's black and white photographs of the Cambridge Village are featured. They are a result of her fall semester photo coursework at Hartwick College. If you take a look over our mantel, you'll see *Mike's Daffodils* by our own Genie Judkins. This pastel gives us a nice glimpse of the spring to come. Genie also continues to

include art projects for kids who attend the Tuesday story hour. If you have any general craft supplies you'd like to contribute for the weekly afternoon activities, please bring them in the next time you stop by the library. Take a look at some of the books in the 700s section for some artistic inspiration, whether it's quilting, wood-working, knitting, scrap art, or any type of art. And remember, if there's a special book you're looking for that we don't have, we may be able to borrow it for you from another library.

The Crescendo Club is thankful to all who stopped at our table during Town Meeting. We are happy to announce the raffle winners for our book gift baskets. *Bucket of Bears* was won by David Vaughan. Many plush bears and children's books about bears were included in the big yellow bucket. *Spring is in the Air* was won by Martha Brown. Gardening books, a lovely plant, and gardening supplies were part of the basket. Thank you very much to the Crescendo Club members who donated the baskets and everyone who purchased raffle tickets or library canvas bags. We will continue to have

canvas bags available at the library. The Crescendo Club is resuming monthly meetings at the library on March 19 at 7:00 PM. Meetings are held the third Thursday of every month, except January and February. Please join us. We're always looking for fresh ideas and energy for the library and its programs.

The Varnum Memorial Library is open Mondays and Tuesdays from 1:00-8:00 PM and Thursdays and Saturdays from 9:00 AM-12:00 noon. Call 644-2117 if you have any questions.

Do you need to change or remove your phone number in the Jericho Underhill community Directory? Call Brenda at 453-2468 or email: mtgazette@earthlink.net.

Westford Preschool Opportunities

The Westford Preschool Program offers a publicly funded classroom opportunity for children who will turn three or four prior to September 1 of the enrolling year. The Westford School District also has slots available for preschool through contracting with the Children's Preschool and Enrichment Center. These preschool services are available at no cost to parents for a total of 10 hours per week. The program will run from 8:15-10:45 Tuesday through Friday.

Selection for the slots will be in compliance with current state legislation and Chittenden Central Supervisory Union philosophies. Children will be selected for the program using a lottery system if there is more interest than slots available. This selection process will take place in May and families will be notified prior to June 1st.

To enter into the lottery for a preschool slot, please send the following registration form (below) to Preschool Registration Request, Westford Elementary School, 146 Brookside Road, Westford, VT 05494.

*Please note that in order to be eligible for slots you will need to show proof of residency

Westford Preschool Registration Request

Date: _____

Student Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____ Ad-
dress: _____

Day time phone number: _____

LEGAL NOTICE

**OFFICIAL WARNING
TOWN OF UNDERHILL
SPECIAL MEETING**

The legal voters of the Town of Underhill, in the County of Chittenden, State of Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at Browns River Middle School, in Jericho, Vermont on April 4, 2009 at 9 o'clock in the morning to transact the following business:

- Article I Shall the Town vote a budget to meet expenses and liabilities of the Town and authorize the Select Board to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same?
- Article II Shall the action taken at the meeting of this town held on March 3rd, 2009 in spite of the fact that legal voters of Underhill were not properly warned of the date, time and place to meet, and any act or action of the municipal officers or agents pursuant thereto be readopted, ratified and confirmed?
- Article III To transact any other business thought proper when met.

Select Board Members:


Stephen Walkerman, Chair


Daniel Steinbauer


Steven Owen

Received for record March 3, 2009 at 12:35 AM

ATTEST: , Town Clerk

CVAA Senior Meals

The Champlain Valley Agency on Aging offers an ongoing series of special meals for groups of seniors at a variety of restaurants in the area. The schedule is listed below. All seniors are welcome to join the group and enjoy lunch with neighbors and friends. Participating seniors must be at least 60 years old, or the spouse of someone at least 60 years old. Suggested donation for meals is \$3 at

Covenant Church and United Church; for meals at other sites, \$5. Transportation may be available if needed. Reservations are required for these meals and may be arranged ahead of time by calling 865-0360.

Friday, March 20 – United Church, Hinesburg, 12:00 noon. Baked fish with tartar sauce, mashed potatoes, whipped squash, pumpernickel bread, chocolate chip cookies.

Monday, March 23 – Covenant Church, Essex Center, 12:00 noon. Shepherd's pie, corn and gravy, peas and onions, whole wheat bread, cookie.

Tuesday, March 24 – JP's Diner & Deli, Essex, 10:30 AM check in, 11:00 lunch. Chicken 'n' biscuit.

Wednesday, March 25 – Dutch Mill, Shelburne Road, Shelburne, 10:30 AM check in, 11:00 AM lunch. Spaghetti and meatballs.

Thursday, March 26 – Ponderosa, Williston, 10:00 AM check in, 11:15 lunch. All you can eat buffet.

Friday, March 27 – United Church, Hinesburg, 12:00 noon. Cream of broccoli soup, egg salad, lettuce and cheese, croissant, fruited Jell-O and topping.

Monday, March 30 – Covenant Church, Essex Center, 12:00 noon. Salisbury steak, red potatoes, winter vegetables, rye bread, butterscotch pudding.

Tuesday, March 31 – Colonial Room, Essex Technical Center, Essex Jct., 11:00 AM check in, 12:00 noon lunch. Roast pork dinner.

Wednesday, April 1 – Dutch Mill, Shelburne Road, Shelburne, 10:30 AM Check in, 11:00 AM lunch. Fish.

Thursday, April 2 – Ponderosa, Williston, 11:00 check in, 11:15 lunch. All you can eat buffet.

Friday, April 3 – Hinesburg meal site, 11:30 AM.

In addition, CVAA-sponsored meals for seniors are offered on an ongoing basis at the following establishments. Tickets must be presented before ordering. For details about the special ticket program, call 865-0360.

A.J.'s Kitchen, 85 Main St., Essex Jct. – open menu; tickets limited. Sunday-Tuesday, 5:00 AM – 2:00 PM, and Wednesday-Saturday, 5:00 AM – 8:00 PM.

Bridge Street Café, Richmond – breakfast, lunch, or dinner (ordered before 5:30 PM) Monday-Thursday. Regular menu excluding shrimp, steak, and some specials.

Dutch Mill, Shelburne Rd., Shelburne – Tuesday-Sunday, 7:30 AM – 2:00 PM.

Old Yankee, 4A Jericho East, Jericho. Meals Wednesday-Sunday, 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Order off senior menu.

Pizza Putt, Airport Parkway, So. Burlington – lunch or dinner, seven days a week. Choice of spaghetti with marinara sauce or baked ziti with tomato sauce and cheese, salad, garlic bread or roll, soda, coffee, or milk.

Ponderosa, Williston – lunch buffet, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Monday-Friday. Tickets are limited.

Davis wins Junior Olympic freestyle cross country ski qualifier

Skyler Davis, a member of the New England Junior Olympic Team from Jericho Center, Vermont and the Stratton Mountain School, set the pace in the Sprint freestyle qualifying event at the Nordic Junior Olympics at Boreal Ridge, California, tying for first place with Tyler Kornfield of Anchorage, Alaska with a time of 2:03:96. Following the qualifying race, Davis dominated quarterfinal and semifinal heats before suffering from high altitude (7,200 ft. above sea level) leg cramping in the men's "A" finals, finishing in fifth place. Kornfield, ranked by USSA as the # 1 racer in his age

group nationwide, broke a pole in the semi-finals and finished in seventh place. Ethan Dreissigacker from Morrisville, Vermont won the J1 men's "A" finals by an impressive margin over runner-up Eric Bjornsen from the Pacific Northwest team. Dreissigacker, the Vermont high school Division 2 Nordic champion, was joined by three New England teammates in the men's "A" finals. Junior Olympic Nordic competition continued on Thursday, March 12 with the 15K freestyle event, the 10K classic on Friday, March 13, and the team relay event on Saturday, March 14. Photos, results and additional information may be found at: www.nensa.net or www.xcjuniornationals2009.org.

Catamount continued from page 1

In an effort to make up time on Carter, Gilbertson ran on the hard packed snow as they started the ascent up Bolton Mountain. It didn't take long before Gilbertson's efforts paid off and he passed the frontrunner. Changing into skiing mode he continued to stretch out a lead on the field.

Further back in the pack, last year's champion Eric Tremble was on the hunt. Outfitted with the perfect combination of equipment de jour (lightweight backcountry skis with kicker skins), he chipped away on Gilbertson's lead. It wasn't until close to the highest point on the Catamount Trail that Tremble passed the faltering Gilbertson in a hair-raising 1300 ft. descent down to the finish. Tremble's calculations of equipment and strategy paid off as he claimed his second straight win in 1:35:46, followed closely by Gilbertson in 1:36:50. In a tremendous effort to catch the leaders, Chris Rogers of Middlebury College nailed down third place in 1:48:22.

In the women's race, the best made plans don't always work out as expected. JoAnn Hanowski of Underhill took the lead after about three kilometers into the race. In an all out effort to stay ahead of the field she decided to go as far as possible up Bolton Mountain before applying her kicker skins for better climbing. When time came to make the anticipated change, Hanowski's binding would not release, leaving only one alternative, grit the teeth, put the head down and start herringboning. Close behind, Betsy Rickert of Shelburne was continuing to chip away on Hanowski's lead but the summit came a little too soon to make her decisive move. In an all out effort not to get caught on the downhill, Hanowski charged toward the finish to win with a time of 2:16:45. Second place went to Betsy Rickert in 2:19:14 followed by Carrie Nourjian of Stowe in 2:36:40.

Throughout the race, the non-competitive skiers who were well on their way into the racecourse cheered competitors on. Following the event, all participants were treated to a hearty lunch, prizes, and a large raffle. The event was a fundraiser for the Catamount Trail Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to managing and protecting the 300-mile Catamount Trail. A special thanks goes out to Neil Van Dyke of the Stowe Rescue Squad along with the volunteer patrolmen from Bolton Valley for their backup support during the event.

The event was made possible by these generous sponsors: Bolton Valley Resort, Trapp Family Lodge, Fleischer Jacobs Group, Blue Cross Blue Shield of VT, Sojourn Active Vacations, Black Diamond, Umiak Outfitters, Clearwater Sports, Seventh Generation, Darn Tough Socks, Karhu, Rossignol, and Sun Valley Bars.

Right: Skyler Davis, # 202 of Jericho Center competing at the Junior Olympics.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

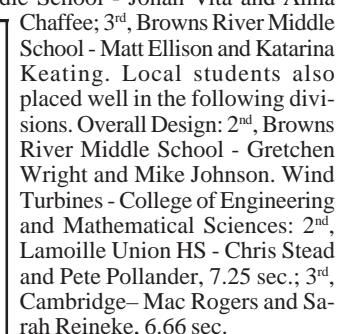
Edible Cars, Wind Turbines, Passive Helicopters, Roof Trusses, and Bridges!

The UVM CEMS Engineers

Day Activities were held on Thursday, March 5, 2009 from 9:00 to 11:30 AM at the Vermont Air National Guard for elementary, middle and high school students. Major Adam Rice provided opening remarks on behalf of the VTANG, and Lt. Governor Brian Dubie officiated the Awards Ceremony. UVM students, professors, and representatives from IBM, Goodrich, and Stantec were judges. For the Edible Car competition, sponsored by the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), students exhibited cars created from foods such as bagels, Graham crackers, cookies, etc. Second and third places in the Edible Cars - SWE division: Speed: 2nd, Browns River Middle School - Jonah Vita and Anna Chaffee with Lt. Gov. Brian Dubie



Edible Cars - SWE division: Speed: 2nd, Browns River Middle School - Jonah Vita and Anna Chaffee with Lt. Gov. Brian Dubie




Edible Cars - SWE division: Speed: 3rd, Browns River Middle School - Matt Ellison and Katarina Keating. Local students also placed well in the following divisions. Overall Design: 2nd, Browns River Middle School - Gretchen Wright and Mike Johnson. Wind Turbines - College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences: 2nd, Lamoille Union HS - Chris Stead and Pete Pollander, 7.25 sec.; 3rd, Cambridge - Mac Rogers and Sarah Reineke, 6.66 sec.




Edible Cars - SWE division: Speed: 3rd, Browns River Middle School - Matt Ellison and Katarina with Lt. Gov. Brian Dubie

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MODEL OPEN DAILY OR CALL FOR APPOINTMENT-



CESU Meetings

March 23, CESU Policy Committee meeting, 6:30 PM, the Central Office, Richmond Town Center.
 March 24, Underhill ID School Board meeting, 7:00 PM, Underhill ID Elementary School.
 March 25, Mt. Mansfield Union School Board meeting, 7:30 PM, CHMS.
 March 30, Mt. Mansfield Curriculum Committee meeting, 6:30 PM, the Central Office, Richmond Town Center.

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VACANCIES


School Board Vacancies

Chittenden East Supervisory Union #12 has the following school board vacancies. Citizens in the following school districts interested in being appointed to any of the one-year positions, are encouraged to send a letter of interest to:
 James Massingham, Superintendent of Schools,
 CESU #12,
 PO Box 282,
 Richmond, VT 05477

- Bolton School District ➤ School Director to the Mt. Mansfield Union School Board
- Jericho School District ➤ School Director

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LEGAL NOTICE

**MILLS RIVERSIDE PARK
 BID SCHEDULE FOR PARK MOWING**

**JERICHO UNDERHILL PARK DISTRICT
 P. O. BOX 164
 UNDERHILL, VT. 05489**

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Jericho Underhill Park District is seeking bids from qualified mowing/landscaping/property maintenance contractors for the mowing of numerous grass areas at Mills Riverside Park in Underhill Flats for the summer of 2009.

All work shall be done in accordance with this description of work and in conformance with accepted industry standards.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Proof of insurance must be submitted with this bid schedule and all insurance shall be kept in force throughout the duration of the mowing contract.
2. Mowing frequency shall be as specified in the area description.
3. All mowing shall be done before 3:00 pm, Monday – Thursday. No mowing on Friday, Saturday or Sunday.
4. All mowing on Area 2 shall be done with turf tires only. All other areas may be mowed with either turf or ag tires.
5. Approximately 12 picnic tables will need to be moved enough to mow underneath.
6. In general, mowing will follow the 1/3 rule (cut off 1/3 the total height) and the finished height will be 2 1/2" to 3".
7. Trimming in designated areas shall include finish mowing and weed whacking around fences, walls, or structures, as appropriate.
8. Around September 15, the contractor shall meet with the park board to discuss reduced mowing frequency until the end of the growing season.
9. Area 2 is a newly constructed athletic field section which was overseeded in the spring of 2006. This area may require mowing procedures which are different than the rest of the park until grass is fully established.
10. Invoices shall be submitted monthly and shall include charges by area mowed and the number of times mowed.
11. Mowing areas are depicted on the attached plan of the park.

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS:

Each bidder shall include with his bid, a list of 3 similar clients and 3 reference individuals with whom the District may speak, as demonstration of qualification to undertake this project.

RECEIPT OF BIDS:

Bids will be received by the Jericho Underhill Park District at P. O. Box 164, Underhill, VT 05489 until 5:00 pm on Wednesday April 15.

1. No bidder may withdraw his Bid within 45 days after the actual date of opening.
2. The prospective bidders are responsible for inspecting the site and for reading and being thoroughly familiar with this scope of work.
3. The failure or omission of a bidder to do any of the foregoing shall in no way relieve him of any obligation with respect to his Bid.

SUB-CONTRACTORS: No sub-contractors shall be used in the completion of this contract.

The Jericho Underhill Park District reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or parts thereof, as it determines to be in the best interests of the District.

**MILLS RIVERSIDE PARK
 BID SCHEDULE**

AREA	DESCRIPTION	MOWING FREQUENCY	PRICE/MOWING
1A	Front half of parking field	Finish mow weekly 6/15 – 8/31	_____
1B	Back half of parking field	Bush hog upon request (2 – 3 x/yr.)	_____
2	Athletic fields	Finish mow weekly after unspecified date	_____
3	Central area	Finish mow weekly	_____
4	Dog run area	Bush hog monthly	_____
5A	Agricultural area*	Bush hog once in fall	_____
5B	Agricultural area*	Bush hog if requested	_____
6	Barn area	Bush hog or finish mow if requested	_____
7	Sledding hill*	Bush hog once in fall	_____
8	Camping area*	Bush hog once in fall	_____
9	6' path in areas 3,4,5,6	Bush hog monthly	_____
10	Selected trimming areas as noted in circles on plan	Every two weeks	_____

* may be done at the same time

Bid submitted by:

Contractor _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Signature _____ Title _____

Date _____

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pregnant with her second child. I thought that a cause that involved babies was something I could relate to. As my own birthday fell roughly around the date of the March for Babies, I thought it was the perfect way to celebrate my birthday. We made March of Dimes invitations, and used blue and pink as our colors. We even made T-shirts for the March! I had a bunch of girls over for a sleepover. We woke up the next morning and went to the walk. It was so much fun: the walk, the music, the food and prizes. I knew immediately that I would be doing this again next year.

"The following winter my parents went to the March of Dimes fundraiser at the Sheraton Hotel. They had such a great time and really enjoyed all of the different kinds of food. My mom told me how the video she watched at the event made her cry. I was beginning to form quite an attachment to the March of Dimes.

"In the early spring of 2008 I began thinking about my birthday again. I began to learn more about the March of Dimes. I also began to hear stories of premature babies and the difficulties these children face in life. I became much more aware of the importance of a baby staying in its mom's belly for the full nine months. I was sure I wanted to do the walk again this year, but this time I wanted to work harder for the March of Dimes. I decided to raise my goals for both fund-raising and getting more people to join me in the March for Babies. The March of Dimes was eager to help me reach my goals. They gave me ideas and things I could hand out to kids who participated. I was so excited to get started. I had a lot of people who were excited about what I was doing. But what I realized is that it is very hard to fund-raise, and even harder to get people involved. I got discouraged a few times. The people from the March of Dimes were always there for me supporting me and helping me move forward. Over the past two years, my team has raised almost \$800 to improve the health of babies. If the March of Dimes could help and support me in this way, they must be amazing to the families of premature babies. The support and encouragement I get from the March of Dimes is the main reason I come back stronger every year.

"My friends and I went to the March for Babies that year and had an amazing time. Some of the girls had come the year before and some of the girls were new to the walk. I enjoyed meeting Governor Douglas and am glad he cares about what the March of Dimes is doing. My friends and I were on the radio, we ate a lot of food, we watched all the walkers come in, and we really enjoyed ourselves. Oh, did I mention we had all of this fun in the rain?"

"I really feel connected to the March of Dimes. I am still learning about all that they do, and I am still learning about premature babies. But what I do know is that I want to be a part of it all and I am very excited about being selected as ambassador for the Burlington March for Babies 2009 which will be held at Burlington High School on Saturday, May 2nd. I want to help the March of Dimes as much as I can. I know what I do is a small contribution compared to others, but I plan on making it bigger and better every year.

"In 2009 my goal is to reach out to kids outside of my friends and classroom. I want to get my whole middle school involved. I am also going to contact our local newspaper so that I can reach out to my whole community as well. I don't have an exact dollar figure that I want to raise, nor do I have a team size in mind. I just want to spread the word about what the March of Dimes is doing and why it is important. The rest will fall into place," writes Emma.

This remarkable young girl could use your help to help further her work with the March of Dimes. The March for Babies is May 2 at 9:00 AM. It starts at Burlington High School this year and is a 4 mile walk. It is always a lot of fun and the young people who march with us find it very rewarding. Emma wants to raise community awareness for the March of Dimes, starting in her own community. Her biggest challenge is recruiting teammates for her team, BRMS. People interested in walking with Emma or helping her reach her fund-raising goal can sign up or donate money on Emma's web page, www.marchforbabies.org/emmahalen.

People can also get more information about the Vermont chapter of the March of Dimes by going to <http://www.marchofdimes.com/vermont>. We really hope this story can get kids and families involved by participating in the March for Babies.

Mazzola continued from page 1

Chittenden Solid Waste District. Bottle-shaped recycling containers, labeled with posters asking people to "Donate Your Deposits" were placed at each of DEW's current ten job sites on the first of February. With a worthy cause to benefit, the bottles started being recycled. "It's a win-win situation," Robie said, adding that pretty soon people were bringing in redeemable bottles from home.

As the site containers filled, supervisors brought the contents to the central collecting point at DEW's Williston office and by mid-March the dumpster was full and ready to be redeemed (see photo.) But the bottle drive isn't over. Robie said it would continue until May 1. "Everyone's on board and it's just part of our effort."

DEW's is not the only bottle drive dedicated to the Mazzola fund. May is a committee member and the Charter Organization Representative for the Cambridge Cub Scouts. The Cambridge Cub Scouts are donating all the bottles collected in March from their drop box at the On the Run Mobil (the former Madonna Mobil) in Jeffersonville.

Other fundraisers organized by the Eagles have included the holiday sale of Angels coordinated by Dr. Angelo Marinakis and his assistant Phyllis Lockwood, a Texas Hold 'Em tournament in January, a Calcutta Night at the VFW in Hyde Park, and a recent all-you-can-eat pizza night at the Jeffersonville Pizza Department. "The restaurant donated everything," May said. "Turnout was great. It was crazy." Al Olio, Eagle Club president, said of the event overall, "It was a great, great thing they did there."

Olio estimates that, even with the totals for the bottle drives and pizza night still to be totaled, the Eagles have raised about \$8,000 toward Mazzola's wheelchair. Other fundraisers are in the works. For more information, contact David May at 644-6518. Monetary donations may be made out to the "Matthew Mazzola Spinal Injury Fund" and sent to Bob Mazzola, 364 Tenney Hill Rd., Hyde Park, VT 05655.

Girls' softball sign-up

Girls ages 7-12 can sign up to play Little League Softball. The season runs from early April to mid-June. We have two teams - Minors (girls age 7-10) and Majors (11 and 12 year olds). We need parent helpers/coaches as well. To sign up, please contact Deb Kessler at 899-2043. If you have any questions about girls' softball or are interested in coaching, please contact the Softball Director, Doug Day, at 899-3546. It is a lot of fun and the girls learn a lot. Let's play ball! Parents can sign up online at www.eteamz.com/jyl/.

Jeicho continued from page 1

amendment was narrowly defeated, 66-72-4 and the Selectboard promised to write to VNA articulating the town's concerns. The second amendment continued a debate from 2008 regarding monies provided to Richmond and Essex Rescue. Jericho is phasing out Richmond Rescue as Essex becomes able to provide more and more services. Therefore, the Richmond Rescue appropriation was cut by \$2,000 and an amendment to restore those funds failed on a vote which required a hand count.

The sole amendment that passed dealt with a much smaller amount. In 2008, a floor amendment raised the appropriation to the Jericho Food Shelf to \$550. This year, that organization requested only \$500. Despite assurances from the staff's director that the generosity of the community made it unnecessary for them to request the additional \$50, an amendment from the floor to raise the amount back to \$550 passed. With the additional \$50 for the Food Shelf, the amount of money to be raised from taxes comes to \$2,400,920.

The town section of the day lasted past noon, in part because of the somewhat folksy manner in which Interim Town Manager Bert Moffatt presented the budget. Moffatt was called to duty due to the absence of Selectboard Chair Bob Penniman. Only one-fifth of those present remained for the school board portion of the day.

In the only contested election, incumbent Tim Nulty defeated challenger David Villeneuve 594-339 to retain his seat on the Jericho Selectboard. Both candidates campaigned hard for the position with flyers and lawn signs, yet only 26% of those on the checklist came to the polls. Karen Glitman, Susan Lillich, Kathleen Miglorie and Wayne Segear won uncontested elections for the school board.

Bolton continued from page 1

Although those voting nay were outnumbered, they were loud enough that a division was needed. Normally this results in a show of hands, but when one resident suggested the differing sides report to opposite ends of the room, residents rose and separated into groups. LaRiviere noted that this method of division, something which Bolton has occasionally done in the past, was quicker than counting hands. No amendments were added from the floor, although there was some discussion about the engineering study for the Notch Road, as well as debate about town employee benefits.

A resolution to encourage the Legislature to deny any extension of service to the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant was narrowly defeated, but residents were unanimous in agreeing the town should ask Montpelier to ensure that Entergy fully funds the decommissioning account. The Bolton school budget passed easily with very little debate, and residents were unanimous in requesting the town apply for a loan of up to \$25,000 from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

On Tuesday, voters went to the polls and chose Dick Streeter over Pat Mallow for a vacant seat on the Selectboard. Both men previously served two terms on the Board: Streeter in the 1990s and Mallow more recently. Both school board incumbents were re-elected without opposition. The ballot item to increase the veteran's exemption from \$10,000 to \$40,000 passed easily. A closer vote was one to approve a 1/8 cent tax for a fund to help defray the cost of library cards in neighboring jurisdictions. That passed by a ten vote margin. LaRiviere was pleased to see the fund pass, guessing that if it raises \$1,000 to \$1,100, there may be no need to repeat the levy in subsequent years. She had worried some of the ballot items which were additional to the main budget might not pass because of the lean economic times.

One item which did not pass was a 1/4 cent tax for conservation. LaRiviere believes this is only the second time this measure has failed after almost a decade on the ballot, first as a voice vote and then as an Australian ballot item. LaRiviere thinks the naysayers felt the \$26,000 in the conservation budget was sufficient.

Underhill continued from page 1

a petition seeking election. Because of a clerical error in the official warning for the March meeting, residents could not vote for the town's \$1,563,994 budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1. The Selectboard has set another town meeting just on that budget, for April 4 at Browns River Middle School.

That didn't stop residents from discussing the budget and other official town government activities. Selectboard Chairman Steve Walkerman said the budget shows only a .07 percent increase because declining revenues forced the Board to trim items in the General Fund budget (formerly the Selectboard budget) and the Highway budget.

"We couldn't rely on revenues as we did last year," Walkerman said. The Board's report in the Town report showed a nearly 43 percent reduction in revenues.

Resident Betty Moore pointed out that because there were no new housing permits issued last year, fewer fees were received, partly reflecting the sagging economy.

Asked by Seth Fireman why a new Highway Department employee, John Angelino of Jericho, is being paid a few dollars more an hour than the others on the road crew, Foreman Rod Fuller said Angelino has more experience and can be relied on to do the jobs assigned him without Fuller being present. Angelino is paid \$19 an hour.

Residents questioned why the town wants to work on three intersections, Sand Hill and River Road, Bear Town and Pleasant Valley Roads and Stevensville and Pleasant Valley Roads,

Steinbauer, who heads a special Traffic Committee, said the town received an \$18,000 grant to plan changes to the intersection of Sand Hill-Pleasant Valley Roads. It was not because of speeding, but to make it safer because of the curve between the intersection and the Center Bridge and to make drivers coming down Sand Hill stop at the stop sign. The Board

Westford continued from page 1

was elected to the Selectboard seat vacated by retiring Chair Cheryl Dunkley. Dunkley said she enjoyed her time on the Board but decided not to seek reelection because of time constraints. "I learned a lot and enjoyed it," she said, "but as the meeting schedule increased, the time commitment became too much for my family." Bancroft previously served on the Selectboard, retiring from the post in 2004. Jennifer Townsend won a two year seat on the Schoolboard and Marilyn McConnell defeated Eliza Anderson for a three year seat.

Voters were less charitable for the items which were debated on the floor. A plan to spend \$15,000 to improve parking at the town library was rejected, as was purchasing a \$250,000 school bond to rebuild the driveway and parking lot at the elementary school. Town Clerk Nanette Rogers, though careful to note that she could not speak for the voters, speculated that the parking lot items were defeated because of the tough economic times. Although the position of constable hasn't been filled, the job duties for that position were reduced at Town Meeting by removing law enforcement duties from the job description.

Rogers was impressed that over one hundred people attended Town Meeting, although that number was down from the usual 150. She was further impressed that almost fifty people attended the informational hearing on Monday night in a snowstorm. Even though no changes could be made to the budget at that time, Rogers said there was a good deal of discussion about the budget which resulted in better understanding on the part of residents.

Rogers noted that with the change to Australian ballot, Town Meeting was significantly quieter and shorter. While Westford meetings have often run up to five hours, this year discussion was done in two. However, if you add the two hour informational meeting on Monday night to that, the numbers are almost the same. Rogers observed that the ability to speak about Australian ballot items on the floor was also a new twist. "This year was a learning curve," she said. With the new format, there were questions about child care, how much food to prepare and how many ballots to order. Next year will feature yet another learning curve as Town Meeting will be switched to Monday night.



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